

BUCKINGHAM- SHIRE



The Little Guides

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

By

E. S. ROSCOE

Revised by

E. CLIVE ROUSE and

R. L. P. JOWITT

With a folding map
and 60 half-tone
illustrations

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Little Guides

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*Revised editions of other
counties in preparation*



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1 WHITELEAF CROSS NEAR PRINCES RISBOROUGH

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

By

E. S. Roscoe

Revised by

R. L. P. Jowitt

AND

E. Clive Rouse

F.S.A.

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2 A CHILTERN SPUR SEEN FROM ELLESBOROUGH
CHURCH PORCH



3 Ivinghoe Beacon



4 WENDOVER FROM THE PATH UP COMBE HILL

PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

THIS edition of the *Buckinghamshire Little Guide* still retains much of the sound work of its original author, the late E. S. Roscoe. It was originally published in 1903, and for its date was a model of completeness and sound knowledge. Since then, the *Victoria County History* has been completed: the two Buckinghamshire volumes of the *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments* published; and the *Place Name Society's* work on the county names has appeared; to say nothing of numerous local histories and slighter popular works, many of which will be found in the Bibliography. The book has been kept reasonably up to date in the intervening editions by the incorporation of much matter included in the works mentioned above.

But taste changes, not alone in material things. And while retaining most of Mr. Roscoe's historical basis, the present revisers, as they did in their previous edition, have re-written a good deal of the rest. In particular, due emphasis has now been given to Renaissance monuments, and to 17th, 18th, and even early 19th cent. architecture and fittings, both ecclesiastical and domestic, where they are good examples of their kind.

The General Introduction has been completely overhauled, and brought into conformity with other new editions in this series, incorporating various appendices.

We hope that the present work may bring a knowledge of Buckinghamshire and of the good things it contains before many people; for in spite of the nearness of the southern half to London, much remains unspoilt. The revisers are grateful for much help in their work from many quarters; and they would be glad to be told of any errors, omissions or changes.

F. C. R.

R. L. P. J.

GERRARDS CROSS, 1949

ABBREVIATIONS

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

The following abbreviations are used:

Norm.	Norman (1066-1145)
Trans.	Transitional (1145-1190)
EE.	Early English (1190-1245)
Dec.	Decorated (1245-1360)
Perp.	Perpendicular (1360-1485)

R.C.H.M. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments

N.	North	NE.	North-east
E.	East	SE.	South-east
S.	South	SW.	South-west
W.	West	NW.	North-west

cent.	century	c.	<i>circa</i> (about)
ob.	<i>obit</i> (he or she died)	m.	miles
temp.	<i>tempore</i> (in the time of)		

INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTORY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, one of the southern-midland counties of England, lying between $51^{\circ} 25'$ and $52^{\circ} 10'$ N. latitude, and $0^{\circ} 28'$ and $1^{\circ} 25'$ W. longitude, is bounded on the N. by Northamptonshire, W. by Oxfordshire, S. by Berkshire, and E. by Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire. Its extreme northern and southern points are Lavendon on Northants. border and Wraybury, on the Thames. Its greatest length is 53 m., greatest breadth 27 m.; its area is 479,360 acres, or nearly 749 sq. m. It should be added that Buckinghamshire is the thirty-third in size of the English counties.

The county derives its name from the town of Buckingham. Authorities differ as to its etymology.¹ In popular opinion it has been considered to have been derived from Bucken (A.S. Bucca, Bocceen)=beech trees, an idea which probably arose from the beech forests which extended southwards from the summit of the Chilterns, but it is more probable that it owes its name directly to an Anglo-Saxon thane, one Buck or Bock, whose heirs and dependants would be the Bockings. (the syllable *ing* being A.S. patronymic suffix). Hence the name of their settlement Bucking-ham, home of the family of Bucc. (See *The Place Names of Buckinghamshire*, Mawer and Stenton. Cambridge, 1925.)

Climate. This is affected by the Chiltern Hills; that of N. Bucks. is akin to the climate of the Midlands; S. of the range it is warmer and dryer. The rainfall of the county is light and compares not unfavourably with Cambridgeshire, the driest of English counties, with an average rainfall of $22\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Population. At the census of 1931 the population of the county was 271,565, and since then the war of 1939-45 has caused a certain amount of fluctuation. The largest town in the county is Slough, which had a population in 1931 of 33,530. High Wycombe comes next with 27,987, and

¹ *Camden*—Bucken (S. Bucca, Bucceen), beech trees; *Sir Henry Spelman*—Bucceen, e.g. bucks or deer; *Lysons*, in *Magna Britannia* states that boch refers to its being bochland in contradistinction to folkland; *Browne Willis*—Buc Cervus, e.g. a buck or hart and forest; *Sheahan* is of opinion that Buckingham derives its name from its A.S. proprietors, the Bockings or Bockings.

Aylesbury third with 13,382. Buckingham lags far behind with only 3,082.

Dialect. It is probable that Buckinghamshire dialect, as such, is a thing of the past. In a few remote places in the middle and north of the county, a few of the older country folk may still use words or expressions which are a survival of an older speech. Certainly in these areas the Bucks. accent (which must be one of the ugliest in England, being a combination of cockney and south midland) is still to be heard. The most characteristic feature is the lengthening of some of the vowels, particularly the A, which in words like gate, lane, place, and so on, becomes almost a double syllable, i.e. ga-ate, la-ane, pla-ace, and so on. The replacement of an opening vowel by a w, and the omission of 'th' endings are common, as 'oi eeant vury big, but oi can carry a bag of whait wi' wuts ur beans wi' anybody'. Most of the word survivals deal with farm implements; and with the march of London on the south, suburbanizing the county out as far as Aylesbury and of farm mechanization in the north, even these are disappearing. Readers interested in details are referred to Mr. Harman's two books mentioned in the Bibliography, *Bucks. Dialect* and *Sketches of the Bucks. Countryside*.

II. GEOLOGY¹

The geology of Buckinghamshire is the main cause of the characteristic features both of the landscape and the agriculture of the county.

From Yorkshire across England to Dorset there extends a line of chalk hills, known as Wolds in the north—as the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire, and as far south as the Thames—and as Downs in the south. Some distance farther north there runs a parallel range, which includes the moors of NE. Yorkshire, the central ridge of Lincolnshire, and the Cotswold Hills of Gloucestershire. Between the two ranges lies a tract of almost uniformly low ground, terminating in the Fens in the one direction, forming the Vale of Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, and reaching the Channel on the coast of Dorset. Lastly, the long slopes which lead southwards from the summit of the Chiltern range terminate in an undulating plain which surrounds London. A strip of country, elongated in a N.-and-S. direction, and so selected as to include parts of all four of these tracts, will represent the county of Buckinghamshire.

¹ By Sir Aubrey Strahan, Sc.D., F.R.S., late Director of H.M. Geological Survey.

The features just described are due to the outcrops of a series of strata of widely different character. Thus the more northern range owes its form to a massive light-coloured limestone, known as the Great Oolite Limestone. The low-lying tract is underlain by a great thickness of clay, and that the Chiltern Hills are formed of chalk is obvious at a glance. Further, the strata all dip downwards in succession into the earth south-eastwards, from which fact we infer that those which crop out to the N. are the lowest and oldest, and that those which succeed them towards the S. are higher and newer. Such, in fact, is the case, and in travelling from the N. to the S. of the county we shall pass over in succession the outcrops of various members of the Oolitic series which comprise the hills of Brill and Ashendon, including the great mass of the Oxford and Kimmeridge Clays; we shall then surmount the escarpment of the chalk, and by descending the long dip-slopes to the S. of it gain the area occupied by the newest strata of the county, namely, some of the Lower Tertiary beds of the London area.

The oldest rock exposed in the county comes to the surface in the valleys of the Ouse and the Tove, and is recognized as the Upper Lias. This is overlain by some sands and clays known as the Lower Estuarine Series, which are in Bucks. only a few feet thick. The Great Oolite Series, which comes next, includes an upper subdivision of clay, a middle mass of the limestone already referred to, and a lower subdivision of estuarine character. The limestone underlies a wide region along the Ouse, by Stony Stratford and around Stowe and Biddlesden, and though much quarried it is inferior to the well-known stone got from the same bed at Bath.

The Cornbrash, a rubbly and highly fossiliferous limestone, though thin, changes least of all the Oolitic strata in the long outcrop across England. It runs along the S. side of the Ouse Valley, and extends by Newport Pagnell, Beachampton, and near Buckingham, with several patches severed by denudation from the main outcrop.

The Oxford Clay, which comes next, is estimated to be 400 ft. thick, and is a soft pale-blue clay, yielding a soil which is devoted chiefly to pasture. It forms a tract of some 6 to 10 m. in width, in the middle of which are situated Bletchley and Winslow. The Corallian rocks which should follow it are represented in Buckinghamshire by a few feet of clay only, but the Kimmeridge Clay, next in order, is about 100 ft. thick. It crops under the Vale of Aylesbury,

under parts of which there must therefore be between 500 and 600 ft. of clay.

The Portland Beds, in which the well-known Portland Stone occurs, were quarried at Hartwell and Aylesbury. A clay between the stone and the Kimmeridge Clay was used by the Romans for pottery. Purbeck strata, with their remarkable record of the alternation of marine and estuarine conditions, are recognized at Quanton, Brill, Cuddington, Stone, Hartwell, and other places, but both they and the Portland Beds occur in patches only.

We pass now from the Jurassic system of strata on to what is known as the Cretaceous System from the fact of its containing the Chalk (*creta*) as its principal member. The lowest member, or the Wealden, is missing in Buckinghamshire, and the Purbecks are succeeded by the Lower Greensand, which forms an outcrop 2 or 3 m. in width, extending from Puttenham and Aston Clinton to Towersey and Ilmer. It contains phosphatic nodules which were worked at Brickhill and beds of fuller's earth which were being dug at Wavendon Heath so long ago as 1723.

At the top of the Lower Greensand, as well as at its bottom, there is a gap in the geological record. Between the Greensand and the Gault there is a similar unconformity, even more marked however, so that not only the Greensand but several of the Upper Oolitic strata are missing below the Gault in parts of the county. The Gault is a stiff blue clay upwards of 200 ft. thick. It contains phosphatic nodules which have been worked in several places, and in its upper part passes into a greenish sand, the Upper Greensand of the southern counties.

Here we reach the foot of the Chiltern Hills, which in Coombe Hill, SW. of Wendover, form the highest ground in Buckinghamshire (852 ft.). The chalk, though at first sight homogeneous, is readily divisible into a lower division of marl, a middle division of massive chalk with a few flints, and with a hard nodular base known as the Melbourn Rock, and an upper division, in which flints abound, and which has a band known as the Chalk Rock at its base. Each division, moreover, is characterized by certain fossils, which experience has shown to be a more reliable guide than the presence of flints or even the character of the rock. The total thickness is about 800 ft., of which half is assignable to the Upper Chalk. The dip being to the SE. the chalk escarpment presents a steep face to the NW., but descends southwards in a long slope intersected by numerous winding

valleys, and loaded on the intervening ridges with superficial gravels. In this belt, with its rich growth of beech trees and the softly flowing contours of its dry chalk valleys, is found some of the best scenery of the Home Counties.

The Tertiary Beds occupy the southern angle of the county, but occur also in numerous patches on the chalk⁴slope, where they happen to have escaped denudation. They consist of generally brightly tinted sands and clay in the lower part (Reading Beds) and of a stiff brown clay (London Clay) in the upper part. They are, however, much overspread by superficial gravels.

The superficial deposits in Buckinghamshire belong partly to the Glacial Epoch. A clay full of transported boulders covers much of the Oolitic outcrops, but the ice-sheet to which its formation is attributed is not known to have crossed the Chiltern Hills. Along the valleys there are more recent deposits of fluviatile gravel in which palaeolithic implements and remains of extinct mammalia have been discovered. Much of the chalk is overspread by a nondescript deposit, known as the clay-with-flints, which appears to be in the main a relic of Tertiary strata; in the same region there are many sarsen-stones or grey wethers, masses of hardened sand or pebbles left lying upon the chalk after the washing away of the Tertiary beds in which they were formed.

III. SCENERY

If a second Arthur Young were beginning a survey of Buckinghamshire, he would start from the northern apex which includes the valley of the Ouse with its sluggish waters and large, low-lying meadows, and has on the upper ground a mixed agricultural district akin to that of Bedfordshire, chiefly arable, large fields marked by first-rate farming. As he proceeded southwards he would find that one branch of this river, called the Ousel, comes from the E. passing along the edge of Bedfordshire, while the main Ouse flows from the W.—from Buckingham and the borders of Northamptonshire. Between these two streams the main portion of the northern part of the county is extended, a space of broken country, of low heights, woods, copses, and somewhat small enclosures, alternately grass and arable, of pleasant villages and small farmsteads, almost indistinguishable from any of the S. Midland counties. To the S. of this is the Vale of Aylesbury, stretching right across the county. Magnificent views over this tract of fertile country are obtainable, particularly from Brill, but also from the Oolite ridge which

extends eastwards across the centre of the county. Waddesdon, Pitchcot, Oving, and Whitchurch are all good vantage-points, from which there is a panoramic view of the Chiltern range from the borders of Bedfordshire on the E. to those of Oxfordshire on the W. The Vale of Aylesbury is a space nearly 15 m. in breadth, in a bee-line of grassy hill and pasture, of picturesque villages with heavily thatched and white-walled cottages clustered on eminences, of churches of no little architectural interest, and ancient manor houses. In its fertility and spaciousness it is markedly in contrast to the land between the summits of the Chilterns and the borders of Middlesex and the valley of the Thames. If we eliminate for a moment the farm-houses which are scattered here and there in the meadows, and the hedges which were planted at the beginning of the 18th cent., when the enclosure of open fields became common, and many acres of arable land became pastures, we shall have a clear idea of the centre of mediaeval Buckinghamshire. Then the village community lay grouped around the church and the manor house, near which were the lord's desmesnes, while the cattle of the village were sent to graze in the marshy and undrained lowlands, most of which were inaccessible except in the height of summer. The most striking natural feature is formed by the Chiltern Hills, which have affected both the scenery and the character of the county. Careful observers in the past have also noted a marked difference between the inhabitants of these hills and of the open country, the former being smaller, darker, and more Celtic in appearance. But this difference is no longer apparent.

N. Bucks. has been a rich grazing and pastoral county from an early age. S. Bucks has a poor, flinty and chalky soil, resulting in light crops of grain, and in pastures only in the valleys or in the waterless bottoms which are characteristic of the Chiltern Hills.

For the lover of the picturesque, the secluded valleys and bottoms, the flint-built and thatched cottages around the small grey church are very attractive, but the northern portion of the county, with its wide views, its pleasant undulations, and its church-crowned hills, has many charms. Buckinghamshire can scarcely be said to possess a river. The Ouse rising in Oxfordshire, passes, a mere brook, into the county near Brackley, and leaves it at Brayfield near Olney. With Berkshire the county shares in the Thames from Wraybury to within sight of Henley, a tributary of which, the Thame, has its head waters in the brooks which

are seen among the pastures to the W. of Aylesbury, and leaves the county at the little Oxfordshire town of Thame. The Chess, rising at Chesham, and entering Herts, is only a pretty trout stream, as is the Wye or Wycombe stream. From the meadows of Olney to the playing fields of Eton the county is full of charming landscapes, and of interesting architectural and archæological features. The Chiltern district abounds in attractive walks, for along the whole line of the hills, from Edlesborough to Bledlow, are wide spreading views. Nowhere in England are more extensive beechwoods than on the southern slopes. The green and stately trunks rising from a carpet of fallen leaves, at one season red, at another brown, are unequalled in their magnificence. In spring-time one may look down on acres of a peculiarly light delicate green, which, when June has come, take a shining soberness of colour. With the last weeks of September gorgeous spaces of yellow and red and bronze begin to break the continuity of colour, and the hues deepen till a rich brown overspreads the hollows and the hill-sides, until the leaves fall under the influence of the early frost. These beech forests affected at one time the social character of the county. They became the hiding-place of bands of lawless men—a rural Alsatia—which was a danger to the surrounding districts. It was this lawlessness which caused the appointment of a functionary known as the Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds—of Stoke, Desborough, and Burnham—that is, of the district lying between the Chilterns, the Thames Valley, and the borders of Hertfordshire. The office would probably by this time be forgotten had it not served by reason of a Parliamentary fiction to enable the retirement of members of the House of Commons. It is regarded as an office of profit under the Crown, the acceptance of which makes a person ineligible any longer to sit in the House without a new election. This curious use, so far as regards the particular office, seems to have been first practised in 1740, and since that date the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds has become part of the recognized Parliamentary practice.

IV. HISTORY

Buckinghamshire in the British and the Romano-British age was only a poor pastoral and woodland tract of land. Subsequently it formed part of the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia, but the occupation of the Teutonic race is evidenced only by the nomenclature of many towns and villages, telling of

the existence of numerous communities. In Buckingham, Aylesbury, Chalfont, Denham, taking these places as examples in a line from the N. to the S. of the county, every one Anglo-Saxon in its origin, we have indications of the age in question.

The earliest historical reference to any place in Buckinghamshire (except Magiovinium or Magiovinum, perhaps to be identified with Little Brickhill on the Watling Street, found in the Antonine itineraries) is to Aylesbury in the year 571. The entry in the Anglo-Saxon *Chronicle* under that date mentions that 'Cuthwulf fought with the Britons at Bedford, and took four towns, Lenbury, Aylesbury, Benson, and Ensham, and this same year he died'. Again in the same chronicle we find that in 918, 'before Martinmas, went King Edward (the Elder) to Buckingham with his army and sat there four weeks, during which he built the two forts on either side of the water, ere he departed thence'. Part of the castle fortifications can be seen to-day, the church now standing in the centre of the castle hill.

The devotion of the Normans and their immediate successors to the Church is visible throughout the richest portions of Buckinghamshire, from the valley of the Ouse to the valley of the Thames, the fragments of Notley and Burnham Abbeys, the churches of Stewkley and Wing, are striking indications both of the religious zeal and of the flourishing state of the Norman landowners during the 12th and 13th cents. But of the numerous religious houses before the dissolution of the monasteries with which the county was studded—Biddlesden, Lavendon, Ravenstone, Missenden, and Bradwell—hardly a trace remains.

Buckinghamshire affords many illustrations of the amazing alteration which was caused in the social and proprietorial condition of England by the Conquest. An extraordinary change of the ownership of its land followed this event. When William distributed the estates of the Saxon thanes among some of his most notable followers, partly as private owners and partly as guardians of the new order, the largest portions of the county fell to Walter Giffard, to William's half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and to Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances.¹ But remarkable as was the change both in the superior landowners and in the system, it had little effect on the lower grades of rural inhabitants. The Saxon thane

¹ Walter Giffard, 48 manors; Bishop of Bayeux, 26; the Bishop of Constance, 18; William Fitz-Ansculf, 16; Earl Morton, 13; Milo Crispin, 12, etc.

was replaced by the Norman baron or knight, not necessarily by one of the few chief landowners but more often by men who held from them, and who became the forefathers of the hereditary gentry, who were to be seen throughout the county up to the beginning of the last century. But the villein, the bordar, and the serf remained in the same position, working, however, for a Norman in the place of a Saxon master.

That in the 15th cent. the people of Buckinghamshire should be deeply influenced by the teaching of Wycliffe and of his assistants is not surprising. This county was at no great distance from the two centres from which Wycliffe and his preachers started on their journeys—Lutterworth, his own living, and Oxford, his own University. Ludgershall in Buckinghamshire, between Oxford and Aylesbury, was a living which he obtained and exchanged for Fillingham in 1368, but during the time that he held this preferment he seems to have been a non-residential rector, Oxford being his place of abode. Still the mere tenure of Ludgershall would be sufficient to give Wycliffe a peculiar interest in Buckinghamshire, and to strengthen his influence among its landowners and its peasantry after he had settled down in Leicestershire, and among the dismal stories which attach to the town of Amersham are those of the executions of numerous Lollards. In the age of the Stuarts the same tendency to individual freedom—whether religious or secular—is seen in the adherence of the majority of the men of Buckinghamshire, among whom Hampden is immortal, and of those in social circumstances beneath them, to the cause of the Parliament. Here and there was to be found a chivalrous adherent of Charles, as Sir Edmund Verney, whose charming character has been portrayed in the *Memorials of the Verney Family*, and in Sir Alexander Denton, who lost son and home by his preference for the Royalist cause.

Aylesbury during the Civil War was more than once the headquarters of Essex's army, opposed alike in position and religious feelings to Oxford, where the King's army was lying. Newport Pagnell, too, was strongly garrisoned by the Parliamentarians, and was of great strategic importance.

Half a century later Buckinghamshire produced enthusiastic adherents to the cause of George Fox, and from Aylesbury to Chalfont there was not a village in which were not to be found steadfast supporters of Quakerism willing to suffer severe pains and penalties for their cause. Of a later age, of the politics and letters of the 18th cent., memories

are recalled not only by the melancholy magnificence of Stowe, but by Beaconsfield, Bulstrode, Dropmore, and Stoke Poges. But the association which belong to these and other places in modern times, and which are largely literary, do not alter the main historical characteristics of Buckinghamshire.

Titles derived from the County. Of those who have borne a title taken from the county itself the first in point of time are the Giffards. The aged Walter Giffard, the friend and the counsellor of William the Conqueror, the standard-bearer at Senlac, was not, as has been generally assumed, the first Earl of Buckingham. The point is by no means clear, but it would seem that this title was given to his son, another Walter. He was followed by his son, also Walter, who died in 1164, and was buried according to some accounts at Longueville in France, according to others in the abbey which he had founded at Notley.

In 1377 Thomas Plantagenet, youngest son of Edward III, was created Earl of Buckingham, and was succeeded by Humphrey, his son. Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, nephew of the preceding, was also called Earl of Buckingham, and two others of this line bore the title of Duke of Buckingham. Perhaps the two best-known holders of the title were the two Villiers, the evil advisers of the Stuart monarchs. George Villiers was created Earl of Buckingham in 1617, marquis in 1618, and in 1623 he was created a duke. The title became extinct on the death of his son, the equally famous favourite of Charles II, in 1687.

In 1713 John Sheffield, third Earl of Mulgrave, the statesman and man of letters, was created Duke of Buckingham and Normanby, but the title in this family became extinct on the death of the second duke in 1735. In the 18th cent. the Temples, essentially a Buckinghamshire family, became more closely associated with the county by title. George Grenville, Earl Temple, twice Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, was created in 1784 Marquis of Buckingham. His son became a duke in 1822. It was his son who by his imprudence brought ruin on the family, and it was during his lifetime, in 1848, that the famous Stowe sale of books and works of art took place. At the death of his successor, the third duke, a leading Conservative politician in his day, in 1889, the title became extinct, and the palace at Stowe became a monument of magnificence that seems to have departed for ever.

The title of Earl of Buckinghamshire—only a slight change in the nomenclature—has been borne since 1746 by the

Hobarts, a Norfolk family, when John Bacon Hobart was created Earl of Buckinghamshire. On the death of the third and last Viscount Hampden in 1824, the fifth Earl of Buckinghamshire succeeded to the historic Hampden estates. This seems to be the first connexion of the Hobarts with Buckinghamshire.

The Arms of the County. The swan, the arms of Buckinghamshire, was the family badge of Eleanor de Bohun. On her marriage with Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, youngest son of Edward III, it became that of her husband, who was created Earl of Buckingham in 1377. Their daughter Anne married into the Stafford family, and her son, Humphrey Stafford, was created Duke of Buckingham in 1444. Through these dukes of the Stafford family the swan became so associated with the shire as to be adopted for the county arms. The date of the actual appropriation is uncertain, but it must have been during the ascendancy of the Stafford family, when they held the Manor of Buckingham and other estates, between the 14th and 16th cents.

The Lace-making Industry. The rise of the lace-making industry of Buckinghamshire, essentially a homely handicraft harmonizing well with the tranquil character and scenery of the county, has been ascribed to two different causes. The first that it was established by a number of Flemish lace-makers who emigrated to England from the Low Countries to escape from Spanish tyranny. They settled in the NE. of the county, chiefly about Newport Pagnell and the surrounding villages, and in an adjoining part of Bedfordshire, and the industry gradually extended to Hanslope on the W. and Olney on the E. But it is hardly likely that foreign lace-makers would have settled in this particular part of England had they not known that there existed in it an industry similar to that which they carried on in their own land. It was probably this knowledge which caused French emigrants to come to Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire in 1794. For the other cause we are referred to the residence of Katherine of Aragon at Ampthill in and on the borders of Bedfordshire from 1531 to 1533 pending her appeal to the Pope. She was proficient in the art of needlework, and there is good reason to suppose that she solaced herself not only by practising the art, but by spreading it among the surrounding peasantry; and until the latter half of the 19th cent. 'Cattarns' Day, November 25th, was kept as the annual holiday of the lace-makers (Palliser, *History of English Lace*, 4th ed., 1902,

p. 383). As time went on a knowledge of the art of lace-making extended throughout the county of Buckinghamshire, and Defoe, who used to travel over every part of England, says of Aylesbury: 'Many of the poor here are employed in making lace for edgings not much inferior to those of Flanders; but it is some pleasure to us to observe that the English are not the only nation in the world which admires foreign manufactures above its own, since the French, who gave fashions to most nations, buy d'Angleterre or English laces'; and of Newport Pagnell he says: 'The town carries on a great trade in bone lace, and the same manufacture employs all neighbouring villages'; while Don Manuel Gonzales, in 1730, speaks of its lace as little inferior to that of Flanders. It was practised alike by men and women, and in 1801 out of the 1,275 inhabitants of Hanslope 800 were lace-makers. In the middle of last century the number had declined to 500; to-day only a very few can be found who understand how to make lace, and who practise the art at all. In several of the larger villages schools existed for its teaching. So long ago as 1626 Sir Henry Borlase founded and erected the free school of Great Marlow for twenty-four boys and for twenty-four girls to knit, spin, and make bone lace.

Buckinghamshire lace has been always pillow lace, but there are two kinds differing in pattern though not in their manner of manufacture—bone or bobbin and pillow point. But this use of the word point is inaccurate, since point is, strictly speaking, lace made with a needle on a parchment pattern; each kind is, however, by no means difficult of imitation. Formerly, in many parts of Buckinghamshire, one could have seen women at work in their cottages. Each woman had on her lap the large round pillow to which the paper, whereon the pattern of the work was drawn, was marked out and fastened by a number of pins, round which the thread was worked by quickly moving bobbins. The industry has never been better described than by Cowper, with his singular power of depicting the local life around him:

'Yon cottager, who weaves at her own door
Pillow and bobbins all her little store;
Content though mean, and cheerful if not gay,
Shuffling her threads about the livelong day,
Just earns a scanty pittance; and at night
Lies down secure, her heart and pocket light;
She, for her humble sphere by nature fit,
Has little understanding, and no wit.'

The Aylesbury Museum contains a fine collection of examples of Buckinghamshire lace, as well as many bobbins and other relics of this once flourishing industry.

V. FLORA¹ AND FAUNA

Buckinghamshire may be divided into two parts—the North and South—which differ widely in their botany. For botanical purposes it is the more general custom to use the various systems of river drainage as botanical areas. The county has two such—the portions drained respectively by the Ouse and the Thames. Treating them broadly, we find that the botany of one differs considerably from that of the other. (1) The district drained by the Ouse, when occasionally it is marked by gravelly material, as at Westbury Common, gives a heath Flora with such plants as *Calluna*, *Erica*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Galium hercynicum*, and *Agrostis canina*, which differs greatly from the flora of the immediate neighbourhood. In other places, as near Winslow, the Clover (*Trifolium striatum*) may be found. A great extent of the country is stiff clay, and on this impervious soil the Great Horsetail grows. The hedges offer a shelter for the Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and their borders for the stately Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*), the Groundsel (*Senecio erucifolius*), the Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*), the Stone Parsley (*Sisoni Amomum*), and, in the badly-drained pastures, the Rest Harrow (*Ononis spinosa*) is very common. The hedgerows on the clay have as a frequent constituent the Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacanthoides*), a species with larger fruit and with different venation of the leaves from the commoner plant (*C. Oxyacantha*). The Cornel (*Cornus sanguinea*) is common, and when calcareous matter is present in the soil we have the Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*), the Spindle-tree (*Euonymus europaeus*); while on limestone soils the Traveller's Joy (*Clematis vitalba*) is abundant. The woodlands, spinneys, and coppices of Great Brickhill, Great Horwood, Moulsoe, and Whaddon Chase are also often on clay; and then the grass (*Calamagrostis epigeios*) is common. At Great Brickhill the Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) occurs. The Throat-wort (*Campanula latifolia*) occurs near Lillingstone. The Violets include *Viola sylvestris*. The Creeping Tormentil (*Potentilla procumbens*) is found near Lillingstone, etc. The Great Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*) is rather widely distributed, as at Shalbourn, Akeley, Westbury,

¹ By G. Claridge Druce, M.A., F.L.S., author of *The Flora of Oxford, shire, of Berkshire and of Northamptonshire*.

Brickhill, and Moulsoe, and sometimes as the variety *dissecta*. The Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) is local, and likes a more porous soil. On a rough, clayey common near Westbury the Great Woolly-headed Thistle (*Carduus eriophorus*) grows in great quantity, and, very sparingly, in the same neighbourhood grows the Dyer's Weed (*Genista tinctoria*). Both Bur Marigolds are found, *Bidens tripartita* being common, but *B. cernua* is very local, although common at Black Pond, near Stowe. The Water Buttercups include *Ranunculus fluitans*, *R. penicillatus*, *R. divaricatus*, and in ponds *R. heterophyllus*, *R. Drouetii*, and various forms of *R. peltatus* occur. *Zannichellia palustris* is not uncommon, especially near Wavendon; while the Charads, *Chara hispida* (Brickhill), *C. fragilis*, *C. vulgaris*, *C. contraria*, and *Tolypella glomerata* (Brickhill) also are found. The Bur-reeds *Spartanium erectum* and *neglectum* are not rare, and sometimes the beautiful sedge *Carex Pseudo-cyperus* may be seen as at Moulsoe and Brickhill. The Brambles are but poorly represented. A form of *Rubus nitidus* occurs at Shalbourn, perfectly typical *R. pubescens* at Westbury Wild, *R. Radula* is common often as the var. *echinatoides*, *R. echinatus* is not unfrequent, and *R. adornatus* occurs near Great Horwood, while *R. rosaceus* grows near Buffler's Holt as the var. *infecundus*. *R. rhombifolius* is found near Linsdale. *R. dasyphyllus* is widely distributed. The roses include *Rosa tomentosa*, Sm. (which is *R. mollissima*, Wild), and this prefers a lighter soil and hilly ground. The Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*) may occasionally be seen in pastures and wood-ridings. True marshes and boggy ground are rare, but there are patches near Winslow and Soulbury, and then we may notice the Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), the Bog Rush (*Schaenus nigricans*), the Sedges (*Carex flava*), etc. Here, too, grow the Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), the Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), and other marsh-loving plants. Another marsh near Linslade has a considerable growth of the Rush *Juncus diffusus* with the Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), the Sheep-rot (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*). The Adders-tongue is not rare in meadows where the Great Burnet (*Poterium officinale*) also grows, and where the soil is calcareous the beautiful grass *Avena pubescens* may be found, and the Green-veined Orchis (*O. morio*) is locally abundant. The Sweet-flag *Acorus calamus* grows by the Ouse at Stratford, and the flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) is frequent. The grass-leaved Pea (*Lathyrus nissolia*) has been found near Wavendon,

where the Sessile-fruited Oak (*Quercus sessiliflora*) also grows.

Two plants occur in Brickhill Woods in great quantity—the Huckleberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), and the Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and are not found elsewhere in N. Bucks. They are also the only home for a bramble, *Rubus hirtus* var. *flaccidifolius*. The Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*) also occurs in the vicinities, and many Brambles, such as *Rubus fissus*, *R. plicatus*, etc. The boggy portions afford the Sedges *Carex echinata*, *C. flava*, *C. rostrata*, the Rush (*Juncus supinus*), the Lancashire Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*—very local, *Lastrea Thelypteris*, *L. dilatata*, *L. spinulosa*, *Blechnum spicant*, the Horse-tail (*Equisetum maximum*), the Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), the Grasses *Sieglingia decumbens*, *Molinia varia*.

The open heathland exhibits the Sheep's Scabious (*Jasione montana*), the Golden-rod (*Solidago virgaurea*), the Hawk-weeds *Hieracium boreale* and *H. umbellatum*, the Buckshorn Plantain (*Plantago Coronopus*), the Hemlock-leaved Cranesbill (*Erodium cicutarium*), the Speedwell *Veronica officinalis* (often with pink flowers), the Clovers *Trifolium striatum* and *T. arvense*, the Dog Violet *Viola canina*, the Sandwort *Arenaria rubra*, the Chickweeds *Cerastium semidecandrum* and *C. arvense*, the Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*)—often in the greatest abundance—the Swine's Succory (*Arnoseris pusilla*), the Heaths *Calluna Erica* and *Erica cinerea*, the Creeping Fumitory *Capnoides claviculata*, the Tansy *Tanactum officinale*, *Myosotis collina*, the Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, the Gromwell *Lithospermum officinale*, *Anthriscus vulgaris*. The Celery *Apium graveolens* occurs near Simpson, the Rose Willow herb *Epilobium roseum* near Salford, and the Grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* near Olney, where the limestone comes to the surface. *Lotus tenuis* has been found near Swanbourn, the Bitter Cress *Cardamine amara*, the Club Rush *Eleocharis acicularis*, the Sedges *C. acuta* and *C. paniculata*, the Grasses *Bromus racemosus* and *Lolium festucaceum* near Wolverton.

The Thames district resembles, to a considerable extent, the Ouse district, except that a portion of the chalk escarpment is included in it, on which are found such plants as the Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*), the Meadow Sage (*Salvia pratensis*), the Bedstraw (*Galium sylvestre*), the Bittercress *Iberis amara*, the Orchids *Orchis pyramidalis*, *Habenaria conopsea*, etc. The Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), the Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), several *Fumarias* and

Milkworts *Polypala oxyptera*, etc., the Lady's Fingers (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), the Canterbury Bell (*Campanula glomerata*), the Ragwort (*Senecio campestris*), the Squinancy Wort *Asperula cynanchica*, the Horse-shoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*), the Rock Rose (*Helianthemum Chamaecistus*), the Roses *R. micrantha*, *R. rubiginosa*, etc.

The hilly district of Brill affords the Henbane *Hyoscyamus niger*, the Hound's tongue *Cynoglossum officinale*, the Roses *Rosa glauca* and *R. systyla*; the cultivated ground affords *Crepis taraxacifolia* and *C. biennis*; the waysides *Caucalis nodosa* and *Carum segetum*. *Carex vesicaria* occurs near Wotton Underwood; *Sedum dasyphyllum* (Marsh Gibbon), the Snakeshead (*Fritillaria Meleagris*) near Aylesbury, the Fiddle-dock near Long Crendon, *Carex axillaris* near Princes Risborough, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* at Bledlow, *Ranunculus parviflorus* near Risborough, *Orchis latifolia* and *Carex Hornschuchiana* near Wendover, *Alopecurus fulvus*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Cerastium aquaticum*, *Salix Smithiana*, etc., near Halton. S. Buckinghamshire is entirely in the Thames drainage, one portion being drained by the Colne, another by the Chess, while a third is drained by the Wye—or, as it is usually called, the Wycombe brook—and another by the main stream of the Thames. In S. Bucks is the large area of the chalk formation, as well as that covered with more recent deposits—brick earth, tertiary gravels, etc., the London clay and low-level gravels. The flora of the Chalk has already been alluded to, but we may add to those plants already mentioned as occurring in N. Bucks., *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Cardamine bulbifera*, *Hieracium murorum*, *Helleborus viridis*, *Iris faetidissima*, *Hypericum montanum*, *H. Androsaemum*, *Helleborus faetidus*, *Daphne Mezereum*, and *Calamintha parvifolia*, the latter being abundant in many parts above Wycombe, Chalfont, and Bulstrode.

The extensive commons have in addition to many plants enumerated for N. Bucks. *Ulex nanus*, *Cuscuta Epithymum*, *Carex binervis*, *Erica Tetralix*, *Salix repens*, *Actinocarpus*, *Echinodorus ranunculoides*, *Peplis Portula*, *Apium inundatum*, *Cerastium quaternellum*, *Genista anglica*, *Milligrana Radiola*, *Centunculus*, *Salix repens*, *Viola canina*, *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Ranunculus parviflorus*, *Hieracium tridentatum*, *H. sciaophilum*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Littorella*, *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, *Pyrola minor*, *Epipactis palustris*. Burnham Beeches affords a large number of species such as *Carduus pratensis*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *P. palustris*,

Scirpus caespitosus, *S. multicaulis*, *Rynchospora alba*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *D. longifolia*, *Viola palustris*, etc. Other commons, such as Stoke Poges, Farnham, Dropmore, and Ivor, also have an interesting vegetation, and we find *Trifolium subterraneum*, *T. arvense*, *T. striatum*, *Sagina subulata*, *Lycopodium inundatum*, *Mentha Pulegium*, *Anthemis nobilis*, *Myriophyllum alternifolium*, *Chara fragilis*, *Nitella opaca*, *N. flexilis*, *Ranunculus Lingua*, *Carex vesicaria*, *Salix repens*, and *S. ambigua*. The woods at Black Park, Penn, Chesham, Wycombe, Marlow, and Dropmore have a rich variety of plants. Here have been found *Rhamnus Frangula*, *Carex canescens*, *C. laevigata*, *C. strigosa*, *C. elata*, *Polygonatum multiflorum*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Lathraea Squamaria*, *Juncoides Forsteri*, *Elymus europaeus* (on the chalk), *Potentilla procumbens*, *Myosotis repens*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Paris quadrifolia*, *Atropa belladonna*, and *Cardamine bulbifera*.

The meadows through which the Chess passes from Chesham to Chenies contain *Polygonum minus*, *Bidens cernua*, *Sagina nodosa*, *Mimulus Langsdorffii*, in great plenty, as well as *Pedicularis palustris*; in the low grounds near the Chalfonts are *Epilobium roseum*, *Scirpus caricis*, *Orchis latifolia*, *Rosa systyla*; and by the Colne *Impatiens biflora* is a most abundant plant. The meadows near that stream have *Carex paniculata*, *C. paradoxa* (very rarely), while *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* is in the water itself. *Oenanthe crocata* is frequent. Near Iver *Polygonum dumetorum*, *P. mite*, *Fumaria Boraei*, *Arabis perfoliata*, and *Carea elata* grow, and *Mentha rubra* and *M. piperita* occur on the higher ground near Iver Heath, where *Dianthus Armeria*, *Geranium lucidum*, *Orobanche Rapumgenistae*, and *Lepidium Smithii* also may be seen. *Dipsacus pilosus* grows near Cliveden; *Hypericum elodes*, *Littorella*, *Scutellaria minor*, etc., at Dropmore.

Stachys annua has been found in cornfields near Wycombe, *Bromus arvensis* at Little Missenden. *B. secalinus* is sometimes very abundant, as near Wycombe; *Chenopodium hybridum* has been found at Beaconsfield, and *Peucedanum palustre* occurs with *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* at Bulstrode, the relics probably of the Duchess of Portland's fondness for the science. *Salvia Verbenaca*, *Campanula Rapunculus* occur near Medmenham, as does *Astragalus glycyphyllos*. The heaths and gravelly commons and woods give a rich variety of brambles, etc.

The woods of the county in the N. consist usually of Oak (*Quercus pedunculata*) with an undergrowth of Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), the Water Elder (*Viburnum Opulus*), the

Willows *Salix caprea*, *S. cinerea*, and *S. aurita* in damp places, or occasionally of Maple (*Acer campestre*), and Hazel (*Corylus Avellana*), where calcareous soil predominates. The Crab (*Pyrus malus*) is not unfrequent, especially on wood borders. At Brickhill there are plantations of Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Larch (*Larix europaea*) and a few Birch (*Betula alba*) and Aspen (*Populus tremula*). In the lower parts of the county the Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*) is common, and *P. alba* and *canescens* are to be seen. Noble examples of the Wych Elm (*Ulmus campestris*) occur, and in few places are finer specimens of the Common Elm (*Ulmus sativa*) to be seen than in the Thames Valley. The Maple (*Acer campestre*) often grows into fair-sized trees as about Moulsoe; while the Lime (*Tilia europaea*) is only a planted tree, as is its relation, *Tilia parvifolia*, of which a fine tree grows at Westbury. On the chalk the Yew is native and not uncommon, and here, too, will be found good examples of the Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). A specially interesting feature of the northern chalk escarpment is the Box (*Buxus sempervirens*), which above Edlesborough and near Ellesborough, at Velvet Lawn, is quite naturalized, if indeed, as some think, it is not native. Here it seeds freely and some fine old specimens are to be seen. It is common knowledge that Buckinghamshire is famous for the Beech, which overspreads the southern slopes of the Chilterns.

Another characteristic tree of the chalk is the Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), which is very common, especially on the eastern border of the county, and there are some fair-sized trees near Beaconsfield.

The Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is common on the escarpment as at Princes Risborough, Halton, etc., and it is also found on Naphill Common and in Burnham Beeches, where, however, the chalk is only covered with a thin deposit. There are good specimens of *Pyrus Aria* in many situations, and it is a common feature in hedges and wood-borders on the chalk.

In the N. of the county the Cherry (*Prunus avium*) is the prevailing form, but is often only naturalized; but in the S. the prevailing species is *P. Cerasus*, which is very frequent and a native tree.

Isolated examples of the Service tree *Pyrus torminalis* occur, as at Fulmer, etc. At Black Park there are extensive plantations of Larch, Pine, and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), but the latter does not appear to be native. In the peaty meadows, as near Eton, Burnham Beeches, etc., the

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occurs, while the Thames Valley shows splendid specimens of the Willows *Salix alba*, *S. fragilis*, *Populus nigra*, *P. alba*, and *P. canescens*, with the planted Lombardy Poplar. On some of these the Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is rather frequent, as well as occasionally on the Lime.

The Ash (*Fraxinus elatior*) is widely distributed, but is better grown on calcareous soil.

Of the Fauna of the county it is unnecessary to speak in detail; it is similar to that of all the southern-midland counties. In all the copses the nightingale is found in great numbers, but often in odd irregularity, while the valleys of the Ouse and the Thame are the haunts of many but not uncommon water fowl. For more detailed information on the birds of Bucks. the reader is referred to two articles and lists by K. Price and H. H. S. Hayward in the centenary number (Vol. XV, No. 1) of the *Records of Bucks.*, 1947.

VI. ANTIQUITIES

(a) *Prehistoric.* The county of Buckingham while possessing a fair proportion of prehistoric remains, has none of the first importance. Palaeolithic implements are found in considerable quantities in the river gravels of the Thames, notably in the Taplow Terrace deposits, at Burnham, Taplow, Slough, and elsewhere; and in lesser numbers in the Colne Terrace gravels on the Hertfordshire and Middlesex border, as well as in the upper Misbourne valley. Several remarkable implements were found in a gravel pit at Long Bottom, Beaconsfield, at a height of almost 400 ft. above O.D., and are now in the British Museum.

The Neolithic period is represented by a fairly wide surface distribution of celts and other flint implements, especially in the Chiltern Hills area. It is probable that several of the hill camps and forts in this district, as has been the case with some of the Down camps in Sussex and elsewhere, will be found to be of Neolithic date—such as Danesfield (Medmenham), West Wycombe, Kimble, Ivinghoe, etc. But excavation alone can prove this, and Buckinghamshire has not been fortunate in this respect. It is rather curious that not more advantage has been taken of the many strong strategic positions on the Chilterns, dominating the fertile Vale of Aylesbury. There are no long barrows in the county. At Hitcham and Clifton Reynes remains of pit dwellings have been found, the former being inhabited also in the succeeding Bronze Age, of which several hoards of implements

have been found, notably at Waddesdon and New Bradwell. Dug-out boats of this period (one of which is in the British Museum) were discovered at Marlow and Bourne End. The Cop round barrow, Bledlow, has been proved by excavation to be of the Bronze Age.

The Late Celtic or Iron Age seems to have been one of some activity, as numerous coins and dwelling sites have been recorded. The great majority of the hill and plateau camps probably fall into this period, as was found to be the case with two of the best examples of earthworks of this type that have been scientifically excavated—namely, Bulstrode Camp, Gerrard's Cross (excavated in 1924 by Cyril, now Sir Cyril, Fox and L. C. G. Clarke)¹ and Cholesbury near Chesham (excavated by Day Kimball in 1932).² The Bulstrode Camp, in danger of encroaching development, encloses 21 acres, and is the largest earthwork in the county of its type. The pile dwelling at Hedsor, discovered in 1895, should be mentioned, though its period of existence covered several cultures. Its structure consisted of a flooring of oak and brushwood on oak and beech piles, and many of the objects found are now in the Aylesbury Museum. Three pit-dwelling complexes have been noted close to the Icknield Way at Ellesborough, Lodge Hill and above Chinnor on the Oxfordshire border.

(b) *Roman*. A spectacular find of this period was the hoard of 400 uninscribed British gold coins found at Whaddon Chase, in 1849, most of which are in the British Museum. The county in Romano-British times must have been sparsely inhabited and of no great importance. Villas have been found at High Wycombe (a house of some pretensions), Chenies, Saunderton, and Hambleden, the last more of a farm establishment.

Other miscellaneous remains, burials, etc., at Foscott, Stone, Radnage, and other places, often in the neighbourhood of the Icknield Way, Watling Street, or Akeman Street, indicate small establishments of Romanized Britons. Magiovinium, or Magiovinium, a small posting town on Watling Street, has unfortunately never been properly excavated. Three Romano-British pottery kiln sites have been identified near Hedgerley, Fulmer, and Bulstrode Camp. That at Hedgerley has been fully excavated and published in the *Records of Bucks*. Leaden coffins containing human remains were found upon a housing site at Well End, a part

¹ *Records of Bucks.*, XI, No. 6.

² *Proc. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, XXXIX, Part 1.

of Bourne End, in 1949. One contained an unguent vessel and has been assigned to the middle of the 3rd cent. A.D. This is clearly a cemetery site.

(c) *Saxon*. The most notable objects of Saxon date have come from the cemetery near Aylesbury, and from the famous Taplow barrow, the burial-place of some chieftain. At the latter place some remarkable mounted horns, drinking glasses, and numerous other objects were found in 1883 and are now in the British Museum. Grim's Ditch runs across a considerable stretch of the county in the Chiltern district, and is continued in the neighbouring counties of Oxford and Hertfordshire, where it is well seen on Berkhamsted Common. The best Buckingham section is in the neighbourhood of the Hampdens. It is now usually attributed to the Anglo-Saxon period, and its use was probably a tribal boundary mark.¹ The purpose and date of the large turf cuttings, the crosses on the Chiltern escarpment at Whiteleaf (Princes Risborough) and Bledlow still remain uncertain, but they probably also come within the Saxon era.²

VII. ARCHITECTURE

MONASTIC REMAINS

The only religious houses in Bucks. whose remains have survived belonged to the Augustinian order. Chetwode Priory still retains the E. end of its E.E. church, now the parish church. At Burnham Abbey, the conventual buildings, now used as a nunnery, have survived, while at Notley Abbey the Abbot's lodging remains complete, together with a portion of the refectory. Parts of the once important monastery at Great Missenden are incorporated in the present

¹ (a) See papers by O. G. S. Crawford and M. W. Hughes in *Antiquity*, Vol. V, Nos. 18, 19.

(b) Article on 'Dykes', by Sir Cyril Fox, in *Antiquity*, Vol. III, 135. He says probably *post-Roman*.

(c) Article on 'The Chiltern Grim's Ditches', by O. G. S. Crawford, in *Antiquity*, Vol. V, 161-70. He says late Roman or Saxon.

(d) Article on 'Grimsditch and Cuthwulf's Expedition to the Chilterns in A.D. 571', by M. W. Hughes, in *Antiquity*, Vol. I, 291-314. He suggests the work was conceived and carried out from the Aylesbury side of the Chilterns, as the work faces away from Aylesbury—i.e. towards London.

² See article by Sir W. Lindsay Scott in *Antiquity*, Vol. XI, 100-4. He quotes the V.C.H. opinion that they must be non-committal for any date anterior to the 18th cent., while R.C.H.M. give a very hesitant attribution to the late Celtic period as their possible date of origin. The Bledlow Cross *might* be referred to in a personal name (atte Crouche—i.e. Cross) in a document of 1350 relating to Bledlow. Otherwise the earliest documentary mention is by Francis Wise, 1742, who speculates on their possible date and origin. Scott himself envisages quite a late origin for Whiteleaf, and even later for Bledlow (i.e. not anterior to 18th cent.).

house, which occupies largely the site of the cloister and its buildings. There are portions of the rebuilt chapel of Bradwell Abbey and fragments of walling still above ground at Little Marlow (Bourne End) and Ankerwyke (Wraybury).

CHURCHES

Although Buckinghamshire does not possess any of the greater churches of England within its borders, it yet contains a great wealth of mediaeval ecclesiastical buildings, both large and small, of the highest architectural importance. They fall rather naturally into several regional groups, each of which exhibits certain marked individual characteristics. Thus, in the extreme N. of the county is a group of large Dec. churches, of which Olney and Milton Keynes are typical examples. The Vale of Aylesbury, at the centre of the county, contains many admirable, though smaller, churches of varied character. To the E. of Aylesbury the churches of Ivinghoe and Pitstone belong to a group which extends over the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire border, the remarkable similarity of their carved capitals with those in several churches in those counties being most striking. On the Chiltern heights the old churches are mostly small and constructed of flint, but exhibit many interesting details.

Saxon. The most important Saxon church in the county is that at Wing, which retains arcades, a window and aisled crypt or *confessio*, probably of the 10th cent., with notable polygonal apse above. Lavendon has considerable remains of late pre-Conquest work. There are also Saxon quoins to the E. of the nave at Iver.

Norman. Stewkley has the most perfect Norm. church in the county. Both this and Upton-cum-Chalvey retain their vaulted chancels and are the only examples of their kind in the county. Dinton and Horton both have very fine late Norm. doorways; Hanslope has much good work, and there are many other churches exhibiting features of this style. Mention should also be made of the derelict church of Stantonbury, with its rich chancel arch.

Early English. The large and important parish churches of Aylesbury and High Wycombe each retain striking E.E. features, though they were largely remodelled in the Perp. period. Chetwode Priory has some beautiful work of c. 1250, while Haddenham has the best tower in this style in the county, the remainder of the building being also in the same period.

Decorated. The Olney group of churches (see above) all

show fine work in this style, particularly Emberton, Sherrington, and Olney itself. Milton Keynes, farther to the S., is perhaps the most typical of all. The chancels of Hitcham and Langley Marish are excellent examples of this period.

Perpendicular. Hillesden, Maids' Moreton, and N. Marston are all three very noteworthy and complete examples of this style. Great Horwood has a fine Perp. tower and at Hanslope the tower is crowned with pinnacles, flying buttresses, and a spire, a somewhat rare feature in this county. High Wycombe has a fine Perp. nave.

Post-Reformation. Fulmer church with its brick tower dates from 1610. Willen, by Hooke (1679-80), together with Gayhurst (1728; architect unknown) are the most complete and important examples of churches in the classical manner in the county. W. Wycombe (1763) has a complete nave of this period with the mediaeval chancel and tower remodelled to match. Biddlesden (1730) in brick with stone dressings is another good, small, classical building. Dorney, Hitcham, Langley Marish, and Stoke Mandeville all have brick towers dating from the 16th and 17th cents. A complete church in the Gothic revival manner is at Hartwell (by Henry Keene, 1753), now unfortunately derelict. Part of the church at Fenny Stratford is in Gothic by Browne Willis (1724-30) and Stony Stratford (by Hiorn, 1776) is also Gothic. Buckingham, rebuilt in Gothic revival in 1777 and remodelled in 1862 by Scott, retains much of its original character.

Brasses. The earliest brass in the county is a floriated cross to a civilian at Taplow (1340), and next comes that to Joan Plessi at Quainton (1350). There is a magnificent ecclesiastical brass to John Swynstede (1395) at Edlesborough, and another in the rare form of a rose in the same church. Sir John Reynes (1428), at Clifton Reynes, is an early military brass, as well as two at Drayton Beauchamp (1368 and 1375); while brasses with French inscriptions at Stokenchurch, dated 1410 and 1415, are interesting on account of the armour. Roger Giffard's brass at Middle Claydon (1542) is a fine example, as well as one at Waddesdon (1490), and the quadruple canopy at Thornton, Robt. Ingylton (1472) which is almost unique in England.

Palimpsest brasses are found at Burnham, Chalfont St. Peter, Denham, Dinton and Great Hampden. There are also brasses in the following churches: Amersham, Astwood, Beachampton, Beaconsfield, Bledlow, Bletchley, Bradenham, Chalfont St. Giles, Chearsley, Chenies, Chesham Bois,

Chicheley, Crawley, N. Datchet, Drayton Parslow, Dunton, Ellesborough, Emberton, Eton, Haddenham, Halton, Hambleton, Hampden (Great), Hanslope, Hardmead, Haversham, Hedgerley, Hitcham, Horwood (Great), Hughenden, Iver, Ivinghoe, Langley, Leckhampstead, Lillingstone Dayrell, Lillingstone Lovell, Linford (Great), Linslade, Long Crendon, Loughton, Ludgershall, Marlow (Little), North Marston, Marsworth, Milton Keynes, Missenden (Great), Missenden (Little), Moulsoe, Newport Pagnell, Newton Longville, Penn, Radnage, Risborough (Monks), Saunderton, Shalstone, Slapton, Soulbury, Stoke Poges, Stone, Stowe, Swanbourne, Thornborough, Tingewick, Turweston, Twyford, Tyringham, Upton, Wendover, Weston Turville, Weston Underwood, Whaddon, Whitchurch, Winchendon (Upper and Lower), Wing, Winslow, Wooburn, Worminghall, Wotton, Wraysbury, Wycombe (West).

Communion Tables of Jacobean date are to be seen at Cheddington (early 17th cent.), Dinton (1606), Padbury (1634), and Stoke Hammond (1619).

Fonts, Buckinghamshire possesses a fine range of fonts, from early 12th cent. to the 16th, as well as several post-Reformation specimens (Willen, Whitchurch, Little Hampden, etc.). Of the early tub-shaped fonts Horton is a good example; while derivatives of the square bowl with corner shafts are found at Iver (Purbeck marble) and Chalfont St. Giles; shallow arcading often occurs, as at Upton. A local type known as the Aylesbury fonts, with very fine carving of late 12th cent. date, occurs in eight or nine churches, the best being at Aylesbury, Great Kimble, Bledlow, Weston Turville, and Little Missenden, with derivatives at Pitstone, Dinton, etc. Stone has a fine 12th-cent. font brought from elsewhere. Leckhampstead, Clifton Reynes, Drayton Parslow, Hambleton, and Buckland all have notable fonts. The proportion of early fonts that survive and the fecundity of design are striking instances of the durability, despite iconoclasts, of the mediaeval carver's art.

Glass. The old stained glass of the county is mainly fragmentary; and small pieces, with figures, architectural fragments, and heraldry can be seen in the heads of many windows. But the best examples, for extent and interest, are at Chetwode (13th and 14th cents.), Drayton Beauchamp (15th cent., ten apostles), Haddenham, Hillesden (important 15th-cent. work, including a life of St. Nicholas), Hitcham (14th cent., the Hierarchy), Stoke Hammond, Stoke Poges (late foreign, partly secular), and Weston Underwood (figure

of Our Lord ascending, Apostles and Saints). For the armorial glass of the county, especially the later examples at Stoke Poges, Bradenham, Wotton Underwood, and elsewhere, see *The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese*, by E. A. Greening Lamborn.

Monuments. The most notable monuments in the county are those in the Russell Chapel at Chenies (16th cent. and later) and the 14th-cent. wooden effigies at Clifton Reynes. Other noteworthy monuments are to be found in the following churches: 14th cent. Bletchley and Haversham; 15th cent. Bletchley and Thornton; 16th cent. Middle Claydon, Denham, and Wing; 17th cent. Aylesbury, Castle Thorpe, Chilton, Middle Claydon, Long Crendon, Dorney, Ellesborough, Fulmer, Hitcham, Mursley, Quainton, Ravenstone, Shenley, and Stowe; 18th cent. Amersham and Quainton.

Mural Paintings. Remains of wall paintings exist in a number of Buckinghamshire churches, a list of the more important being given in the Appendix. Technically, the finest are at Eton College, executed by William Baker about 1480. They have suffered many vicissitudes and little more than half the original scheme remains. They show scenes from the Life and Miracles of the Virgin, with single figures of saints. Artistically, the best are at Little Kimble, where there is an extensive series including St. George, St. Christopher, St. Lawrence, St. James Major, St. Bernard, fragments from the lives of SS. Margaret, Catherine, and the rare subject of St. Francis preaching to the birds. They are of early 14th-cent. date. Little Missenden has much painting, including the finest St. Christopher in the county and a Life of St. Catherine, c. 1300. Chalfont St. Giles shows a completely painted S. aisle with Miracles of the Virgin, Old and New Testament scenes, a Life of St. John the Baptist and a Jesse tree, also c. 1300. Little Hampden has, among much other painting, the earliest St. Christopher in England (13th cent.). Morality or warning pictures occur at Broughton (a warning to swearers, c. 1400, with many other subjects), Little Horwood (The Seven Deadly Sins: this also occurs at Padbury in wheel form), Swanbourne (states of the soul). Radnage and Lathbury also have important remains.

Pulpits. The earliest pulpit in the county is at Upper Winchendon (14th cent.) and the most magnificent is at Edlesborough (15th cent.). Ibstone has also a 15th-cent. pulpit. Jacobean pulpits are numerous, the best examples being at Cheddington, Middle Claydon, Dinton, Ivinghoe, Langley (1609), Pitstone, Shabbington (1626), and Wavendon.

Rood Screens. Complete examples are rare, but at the following places there are specimens or substantial remains: Edlesborough, Horsenden, Great Horwood, Ilmer, Langley, Maids' Moreton, Oving, Twyford, Upper Winchendon, and Wing. Those retaining their original painting will be found at N. Crawley (a complete example with kings, saints, and prophets), Monks' Risborough (prophets), and Quainton (a portion, with prophets or apostles).

Stone Altars of pre-Reformation date are preserved in the churches at Addington, Little Hampden, Hillesden, Ickford, and Little Missenden.

Tiles of mediaeval date are found in the paving of numerous churches. At Little Kimble are some of Chertsey type (13th cent.). Other tiles may be seen in the churches of Lillingstone Dayrell (13th cent.), Pitstone (15th cent.), and Thornborough (15th cent.). Almost all the tiles in the S. of the county derive from kilns formerly situated at Penn and Tylers' Green, hence the name of the latter place. (See 'Mediaeval Paving Tiles in Buckinghamshire', by Christopher Hohler, in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XIV, 1-49 and 99-122 (1941-2).

DOMESTIC BUILDINGS, CASTLES, ETC.

Bucks. has no remains of military architecture except the gatehouse of Boarstall Tower, dating chiefly from the 14th to the 16th cent. There is, however, a fair proportion of mount and bailey castles, at least two of which had some masonry works on the Keep mound (Bolebec Castle, Whitchurch and Buckingham). The other good examples of earthwork castles are Cymbeline's Mount (Ellesborough), Castle Thorp and Lavendon, Shenley and Weston Turville.

In most villages was at one time a manor-house, and many of these, of varying dates, have survived, though some, like Hillesden, have been destroyed. The most important early house is Creslow, which retains a tower and vaulted crypt of the 14th cent. Hampden House retains a small mediaeval portion, incorporated in later work. Three houses, themselves of later date, retain chapels formerly connected with them of 13th and 14th-cent. date; Widmer Farm, Marlow (13th and 14th cent.); Great Hundridge, Chesham (13th cent.); Liscombe Park, Soulbury (1350); Huntercombe, Burnham (14th cent.). Of later houses, few except Gayhurst and Stowe would be considered of great size or in the front rank, compared with those in some other counties. There are, nevertheless, some excellent examples of each of the successive periods, valuable both in architectural and artistic

detail, as well as having a social and historical importance. Grouped by date, the best are as follows, but it should be understood that most of them have later additions and alterations. 16th cent. Calverton, Chenies, Chequers, Dinton, Dorney (1510), Gayhurst, Marsh Gibbon, and Swanbourne. 17th cent. Chilton, Denham Place, Dorton, Hambleden (1604), and Hartwell. 18th cent. Chicheley (1701), Claydon, Shardeloes (1758), Stowe, Tyringham (1793), and W. Wycombe (c. 1765). The measure of our gradual social revolution may be gauged when it is stated that out of 61 great houses in the county only 17 still remain as private residences. Many good town houses of the 18th cent. are also to be found in the streets of Aylesbury, Amersham, Buckingham, and High Wycombe, and in other places besides.

Nor should the innumerable cottages built in the 16th and 17th cents. be overlooked, at once picturesque and comfortable, warm in winter and cool in summer, with their heavily thatched roofs and with thick walls crossed by wood-work, which will outlast the productions of the modern jerry-builders. Again, the almshouses at Amersham, Quainton, Wing, Shenley, and Sherrington—to enumerate only a few—are examples of buildings a little more ambitious than the peasant's cottage, less in size but not less interesting than the manor-houses, as illustrations not only of a form of domestic architecture but of social habits and customs, and of a form of relief in old age, which at any rate preserves something of the feeling of a home.

Mural Paintings (Secular). The practice of decorating the walls of even quite humble houses with wall-paintings in Elizabethan and Jacobean times was far more widespread than is generally supposed. A considerable number of such paintings survive and many more have been recorded, which have since perished. The best are at the *Crown Hotel, Amersham* (Royal Arms of Elizabeth and painted facsimile panelling); No. 61 High Street (The Nine Worthies and fragments in several other houses, late 16th cent.); *The Savoy, Denham* (Old Testament scenes, dated 1606). Re-erected at *Whan Cross, Chalfont St. Giles*, complete gable from demolished house at Chalfont St. Peter, with framed text, rose, shamrock, and crowned thistle with initials I.R. (James I) (1603); *Bosworth House, Wendover* (painted panelling and other work, partly removed); *Great Pednor Manor, Chesham* (complete wall of geometrical interlace, with flowers, a frieze with texts from the Metrical Psalms, late 16th cent.); No. 1

Market Hill, Buckingham; Loughton Manor House (arabesque); *Stoke Poges, Old Manor House* (badges, mottoes, and coats of arms); *Wingrave, Nop End* (arabesque); *Meadle* (Adam and Eve and a text); *Jordans, Dean Farm* (patterning), and numerous fragments elsewhere.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Roads. Owing to the peculiar conformation of the ground, the county being diagonally traversed by the Chiltern Hills, the main lines of communication in the county run from NW. to SE., direct N. to S. communication being correspondingly difficult. Of roads, the most noticeable is the main road which enters the county on its SE. border near Little Brickhill, and runs north-westward to Stony Stratford, covering throughout its distance the ancient Watling Street. From E. to W. are also two modern roads which are identical with portions of the Upper and Lower Icknield ways, which were ancient British highways, along the northern base of the Chilterns, the former entering the county near Edlesborough and leaving it at Bledlow. There is yet another road, which entering the county at Aston Clinton runs NW. through Aylesbury, and is the same as the old Akeman Street.

These highways have in former days been sometimes called Roman work, sometimes British, but there can be no doubt that they were aboriginal tracts which were improved and utilized by each succeeding generation whether Roman or Saxon. This is obvious when the Upper Icknield Way is followed throughout its length, for one there sees how there must always have been a necessary road—raised above the marshes and mud of the meadows of the vale and below the steep slopes which mark the higher parts of the northern face of the Chilterns. No road is more delightful, presenting at every turn extensive and agreeable views—on the one hand, the distant fields dotted with villages and hedges, and on the other, the varying forms of the uprising hills. One of the main highways from London enters the county at Denham, and thence runs to High Wycombe and through the ranges of the Chilterns to Oxford. At the top of Red Hill, Denham, this road bifurcates, and another main road continues up the Misbourne valley to Aylesbury. From this town, in addition to the Bicester road and the Leighton Buzzard or Bedfordshire road, one trunk road runs NE. to Winslow, Buckingham, and Brackley, and another westwards to Thame in Oxfordshire. The eastern and western portions of central Bucks. are connected by a fine main road

from Aylesbury to Linslade (Leighton Buzzard). Yet another important road leaves Watling Street at Stony Stratford and, proceeding through Wolverton and Newport Pagnell, bifurcates, N. to Olney and E. to Bedford.

Those who wish to cross the Chilterns from N. to S. should choose a road leading through one of the four gaps in these hills. These are, taking them from E. to W., the Bulborne valley, through which runs the road from London to Aylesbury and the main Euston-Holyhead line; the Wendover gap, through which runs the road and railway from Amersham to Aylesbury; the gap in which Chequers Court stands, through which passes the road from Butler's Cross to Great Missenden, traversing some magnificent beechwoods and the Princes Risborough gap, through which passes the road and railway from that town to High Wycombe.

Railways and Canals. The former Metropolitan Railway, now part of the London Transport system, runs through the centre of the county from the Herts. border near Chenies to Verney Junction, and serves Amersham, Great Missenden, Wendover, and Aylesbury. The last-named is also served by a branch of the London Midland Region system from their main line at Cheddington. The W. side of the county is chiefly served by the lines of the Western Region system. One important line enters the county at Denham and runs through Gerrard's Cross, Beaconsfield, High Wycombe, and Princes Risborough, leaving the county to the N. of Brill. The S. portion of the county is served by the main line of the Western Region system, which serves Slough, and by a branch of the Southern Region system serving the Thames-side residential districts of Wraysbury and Datchet.

The Grand Union Canal enters the county to the N. of Tring, and passes along its E. side, serving Linslade (Leighton Buzzard), Fenny Stratford, Wolverton, Newport Pagnell, and Olney. Aylesbury is served by a branch of this canal.

Motor Omnibus Services. The services of the London Transport system serve the S. of the county and as far N. as Aylesbury. This town is also served by the Oxford, United Counties, and Eastern National systems, serving respectively the W., N., and E. portions of the county.

IX. INDUSTRIES

Agriculture is the principal industry of the county, and employs the inhabitants from the meadows of Olney to the extensive pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury, and from the summits of the Chilterns to the banks of the Thames. It

varies greatly in character, and nothing can be more in contrast than the enormous pastures, the immemorial grazing grounds which stretch about the brooks which wind between Winslow and Aylesbury, and the flinty ploughs which are to be found on the southern slopes of the Chilterns, and upon which meagre crops of corn are raised among the still numerous woodlands. It is these extensive beechwoods which have caused the rise of one of the county's chief industries, that of chair-making. Its headquarters are at High Wycombe, where not only chairs, but furniture of every description is made, with the associated crafts of upholstery, etc. In the remoter beechwoods of the Chilterns, one may still occasionally come across a 'bodger' at work, cutting the wood and turning the chair-legs on his primitive pole-lathe. The legs are then sold to a factory to be assembled there.

Slough, during the period between the wars (1919-39) became the centre of a vast number of varied industries and, as a result, is now the largest town in the county. Aylesbury has large printing works and many other light industries. Wooburn, near High Wycombe, has paper mills, and at Wolverton are the wagon works of the London Midland Region of the British Railways. At Beaconsfield, Denham, and at Pinewood near Iver, are some well-known film studios.

N. of the Chilterns there are a number of quarries which have been used from very ancient times, such as that of the well-known Portland stone at Hartwell, where a clay between the stone and the Kimmeridge clay was obtained by the Romans for pottery, and was later used for bricks. Some of these are still worked. Gravel, sand, and ballast digging is devastating large areas around Gerrard's Cross and Hedgerley, as well as in the Thames and Colne valleys. But these are mere sporadic occupations and give no character to the county, which, in spite of its length and differences of soil and scenery, is thus singularly homogeneous. The rearing of large white ducks—known as Aylesbury ducks—is much practised in the farms and villages in the low-lying district to the N. of the Chilterns, while in the valleys to the S. of them, especially about Chesham and Wycombe, the cultivation of watercress employs many persons.

X. BIOGRAPHY

The following people who have played their part in their several ways in history at various times were connected with the county, but few were actually natives.

Beaconsfield, Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Lord (1804-81). His parents took up their residence at Bradenham in 1829, where he lived until he purchased Hughenden in 1848. He became M.P. for the county in 1847, holding the seat for 24 years. He took his title from Beaconsfield on accession to the Peerage in 1875.

Burke, Edmund (1730-97). Became M.P. for Wendover in 1768 and purchased Gregories, an estate at Beaconsfield, which became a famous resort of statesmen, politicians, and men of letters.

Chesterton, G. K. (1874-1936). Novelist, poet, and editor. Lived at Beaconsfield during the latter part of his life.

Cowper, William (1731-1800). Resided at Olney, 1767-86, where his house has now become the Cowper Museum. Here he wrote *The Task* and *John Gilpin*. Lived later at Weston Underwood, 1786-96.

Digby, Sir Everard (1578-1606). Elizabethan conspirator. He married Mary, daughter and heiress of William Mulso of Gothurst (now Gayhurst). Implicated in Gunpowder Plot and executed.

Ellwood, Thomas (1638-1714). Author and convert to Quakerism. Visited Milton at Chalfont St. Giles and inspired him with the idea of writing *Paradise Regained*, after reading manuscript of *Paradise Lost*. Imprisoned in Aylesbury for his religious opinions in 1665.

Fortescue, Sir John (c. 1531-1607). Elizabethan statesman, M.P. for the county, 1588-97. Entertained both Elizabeth and James I at Salden, his splendid seat, now destroyed, at Mursley, where there is a monument to him in the church.

Garvin, J. L. Editor of *The Observer* and author. Lived at Beaconsfield during the latter part of his life.

Gray, Thomas (1716-71). Lived at Stoke Poges, where he wrote the *Elegy* in 1750 and *Ode on the Distant Prospect of Eton College*. Buried at Stoke Poges, where there is also a monument to him.

Grenville, William Wyndham, Lord (1759-1834). Statesman, M.P. for the county, 1784-90, when he was raised to the peerage. Purchased Dropmore in 1792 and greatly beautified it.

Grey, de Wilton, Arthur, 14th Lord (1536-93). Appointed Lord Deputy for Ireland by Elizabeth. Served on Commission for trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. Lived at Whaddon.

Grote, George (1794-1871). Historian of Greece. Began to live at Farnham Royal in 1838, and here wrote much of

his *History of Greece*. In 1851 built E. Burnham House with proceeds of his history.

Hampden, John (c. 1595–1643). The great patriot and most famous citizen of the county. Though not actually born within it, he came of an old Bucks. family and lived all his life at Gt. Hampden (q.v.). Statue at Aylesbury.

Herschel, Sir F. W. (1738–1822). The great astronomer. Became private astronomer to George III, 1782, and lived first at Datchet and later at Ivy House, Slough, where he constructed his giant telescope in 1789. Buried at Upton Church, Slough.

Hooker, Richard, 'The Judicious' (1553–1600), was Rector of Drayton Beauchamp, 1584–5.

Jeffreys, George, Judge (1648–89). Lived for a time at Bulstrode.

Lowndes, William (died 1724). Secretary of the Treasury to Queen Anne. Known, from his family motto, as 'Ways and Means Lowndes'. Built and lived at the Bury, Chesham, and had much other property in the county.

Milton, John (1608–74). Lived at Horton, 1632–7, where *Lycidas* and *Comus* were written. During Plague in London, 1665–6, occupied cottage at Chalfont St. Giles, now Milton Museum, where he completed *Paradise Lost*.

Penn, William (1641–1718). Founder of State of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., and distinguished convert to Quakerism. Married Gulielma Springett of Chalfont St. Giles. Buried with both his wives at Jordans.

Portland, William Bentinck, Earl of (1648–1709). Dutch by birth. Friend and Minister of William III. Lived at Bulstrode, where he died.

Portland, William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, 3rd Duke of, Prime Minister, 1783 and 1807–9. Lived at Bulstrode.

Rumbold, St. See under Buckingham.

Schorne, John. See under Marston, N.

Shelley, P. B. (1792–1822). Lived at Marlow for a year after his marriage to Mary Godwin in 1816, and here wrote *The Revolt of Islam*.

Smith, W. H. (1825–91). Head of famous firm of book-sellers. Cabinet Minister, lived at Hambleden. On his death, his widow was created Viscountess Hambleden.

Verney, Sir Edmund (1590–1642). Knight Marshal to Charles I. Entrusted with keeping of Royal Standard at start of Civil War at Nottingham, and died in its defence at Edgehill, 1642. Lived at Claydon House.

Waller, Edmund, the Cavalier Poet (1606–87). Born at

Coleshill, then in Herts. but now in Bucks. M.P. for both Amersham and High Wycombe at various times. Lived at Hall Barn, Beaconsfield, where he died.

Whitelocke, Bulstrode (1605-75). Lawyer and parliamentarian. Became M.P. for Marlow in 1640 and represented it during Long Parliament. Took a prominent part in Civil War against the King. Descended from Bulstrode family on his mother's side.

Wilkes, John (1727-97). Lived for a short time at Aylesbury, 1749-50, for which he was M.P., 1757-64, when he was expelled for an impious libel.

Wycliffe, John (c. 1320-84). The famous reformer, held the living of Ludgershall for a short time during 1368.

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DESCRIPTION OF PLACES ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

NOTE. The position of any place can be readily discovered on the map by using the grid reference which follows the place-name.

Ackhampstead

[B.6]

Formerly a detached part of Oxfordshire (Lewknor Parish), now merged in Great Marlow and Hambleden. There is no village and the area only includes a few farms and cottages, with the scanty remains of a small church of aisleless nave and chancel type, probably dating from the 12th cent. The ruins lie in a remote situation in lovely, high country amid woods and commons, midway between Lane End and Frieth.

Addington (1 m. NW. of Winslow)

[B.3]

practically consists of the church, the Manor House, and a few cottages. The chief manor, which at one time passed through such well-known Buckinghamshire families as the Romenels and the Molyns, in 1635 came into the possession of the Busbys, in whose family it remained till 1812. Addington Manor is now the property of Lord Addington. The first baron of that title was so created in 1887. The old Manor House long ago disappeared, and the present house was built in 1857 from a design by the well-known architect, Hardwick. The church was partly rebuilt in 1858, but the Dec. tower and nave arcades remain. Set in the modern altar is a small original stone altar-slab, $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., incised with the five crosses. There are a number of panels of early 17th-cent. Flemish glass. The church possesses a Primer of 1541. Note old stocks in park to the SE. of the church.

Adstock

[B.3]

This is rather an attractive village to the N. of the road from Winslow to Padbury. There are some picturesque thatched cottages not far from the church, which is a charming little building, with W. tower, nave, and chancel. The S. doorway has good 12th-cent. work, and is of simple but effective design. Note work of same period on N. doorway which has a tympanum, cut later into an ogee shape. Inside, the tower arch is Perp. and the chancel arch Dec. The Perp. tie-beams of the nave roof rest on rude head corbels. The Perp. windows of the nave are striking, but the tracery rather clumsy. Note also (1) the Perp. font, which is octagonal



5 THE HIGH STREET AND TOWN HALL, AMERSHAM



6 AYLESBURY: CHURCH STREET WITH THE COUNTY
MUSEUM AND CEELEY HOUSE ON THE RIGHT

with a rose on each panel—the base is heavy; (2) the open panels of the pulpit, into which have been inserted the remains of the ancient rood screen; (3) the date 1597 cut into cross beam above the E. window; (4) two Dec. low-side windows on N. and S. of chancel.

On the S. porch is a sundial, with the date 1581.

Akeley (Domesday, Achelai)

[B.2]

is a fair-sized village pleasantly situated almost on the top of a hill, with good views to NE. with the church in the centre. This is quite a large building, with chancel, nave, tower, and S. porch. It was rebuilt in 1854.

Amersham (Pl. 5, 40, 52)

[C.5]

Agmondesham as it was called—Leland (1533) wrote of it as Hagmondesham *alias* Homersham—is a typical small rural borough, of which there are several on the southern slopes of the Chiltern Hills. From 1624 to the Reform Act of 1832 this little town regularly returned two members to Parliament, among whom may be noted Edmund Waller, 1627–40–41, and Algernon Sidney, 1656. It was from the beginning of the 18th cent. wholly in the pockets of the Drake family, and in 1705 there were only some 130 voters. Time has changed old Amersham but little, for the new development has almost all taken place around the railway station on the hill and thus well away from the old town in the Misbourne valley. The town consists mainly of one long street which carries the Uxbridge-Chalfonts-Missenden-Wendover-Aylesbury road, and a shorter cross street meeting the former near the Market Hall. This street, together with those at Beaconsfield and Wendover, are the finest streets in the whole county, having a series of late mediaeval, 16th, 17th, 18th, and early 19th-cent. frontages, with few modern intrusions, that is unrivalled. The only loss at Amersham is the demolition of an island block of brick and timber houses which formerly bordered one end of the Market Place. At the S. or London end of the High Street is the Market Hall, built by Sir William Drake in 1682, upon which are his arms. The Grammar School, endowed in 1624 by Dr. Chaloner, Canon of Windsor, occupied a late mediaeval building formerly the Church House, on the N. side of the Market Square. A new building has been erected outside the town. The Almshouses, built in 1657, are an important example of dated brickwork founded by the Drake family for six poor widows.

The following houses should be especially noted: the Mill Stream (timbered water-mill of 17th and 18th cents.; Bury

Farm (corner of Coleshill Rd.) associated with the Penningtons, William Penn, and his wife Gulielma Springett; the Old Malt House, good timbered range of 16th and 17th cents.; the Griffin, fine late 17th-cent. font; the Crown Inn, an early 19th-cent. refronting of a 16th-cent. house with Elizabethan Royal Arms and other wall-paintings; the Gables, a fine house of late 16th cent. with good interior; the King's Arms and adjoining house, 15th to 18th cent.; house E. of the King's Arms, fine 18th-cent. front with bay windows; Elmodesham House, a fine town-house of the second quarter of the 18th cent.; No. 61 High Street, of 16th cent. and later date, containing wall-painting of the Nine Worthies; the Town Mill, late 17th cent.; Little Shardeloes, 17th cent.

In the parish are the rectory, a fine house built in 1732 by the rector, Benjamin Robertshaw; Raans, a 16th-cent. manor-house and Woodside Farm, a 17th-cent. timbered building associated with early Quaker meetings.

The church of St. Mary is, after High Wycombe, Chesham, and Aylesbury, one of the largest in Bucks., and contains a valuable series of monuments. Its interest was a good deal reduced by over-restoration in 1870, but the church, next to Quainton and Chenies, contains the finest series of Renaissance and later monuments in the county.

The chancel is of 13th-cent. origin, with windows mostly renewed; arch into N. chapel, 15th cent.; door to Drake Chapel, 17th cent.; chancel arch, 13th cent.; heightened in 1870. Note fine glass in E. window, probably 17th cent., German or Flemish, brought from the chapel of Lamer Manor, Herts., in the 18th cent. The N., or Raans Chapel is late 15th cent. The N. and S. transepts are 13th cent. with one lancet still remaining, but were altered in the 14th cent., when windows and a tomb recess were inserted. The nave is of 13th-cent. origin, but the S. aisle, arcade, and W. bay were built c. 1310, and the N. aisle, arcade, and W. bay a few years later. Note curious form of arches into transepts—13th cent. raised in the 15th cent. The clerestory is 15th cent. and the arcades were rebuilt in 1870. The tower and porch are c. 1480.

Brasses. In chancel: Henry Brudenell and wife, 1430; John Drake, aged 4, with pathetic verse. In N. aisle: Thomas Carbonnel and wife, 1438–9; John de la Penne and wife, 1538; a civilian (no inscription), 1440. In S. transept: Richard Champneys, draper, 1439.

Monuments. In chancel, N. side: (1) Henry Curwen, aged 14, 1636, a fine alabaster and marble monument of the

school of Marshall: note pathetic inscription and doors of tomb held open by angels and cherubs with taper and extinguisher. (2) The infant children of Chief Baron Drake, 1700; school of William Stanton. (3) Sir William Drake, 1654, a fine work by Edward Marshall, with shrouded half-figure. Chancel, S. side: (1) William and Elizabeth Bent, 1730; unusual kneeling figures, by Edward Stanton. (2) Montagu Drake and wife, heads on medallions with a sarcophagus in architectural setting, 1698, 1724; signed by Andrew Carpenter.

The following monuments are in the Drake or Shardeloes Chapel (not normally open to the public): (1) Montagu Gerrard Drake, 1728; magnificent reclining figure in architectural setting with allegorical figures by Peter Scheemakers. (2) Elizabeth Drake, 1757, by William Tyler, R.A., a lovely work in coloured marbles. (3) W. Tyrwhitt Drake, 1802, by John Bacon, figure on urn of great feeling and elegance. There are numerous other works, many of them signed, by the Bacons and others of varying merit.

The town has always been in the front of various religious controversies and was prominent in Reformation and Nonconformist movements. A monument has been erected on the hill to the N. of the town to the 'Amersham Martyrs'—Lollards and later religious Protestants of the Maryan persecution, William Tyldesworth and others who were burnt on this supposed spot. John Knox preached a sermon against 'Bloody Mary' in the church, and in the parish registers are interesting MS. notes by a forceful rector, Benjamin Robertshaw, who knew many of the Commonwealth characters. Quakerism has always been prominent in the area, and the connexions with the Penns, Penningtons, Springetts, and Russells has been mentioned.

The Drakes, so often commemorated in the church had their great house at Shardeloes, W. of the town—'a fine classical mansion with detail by the Adams, set above a lake in splendid landscape gardening setting'. Joan, the eldest daughter and heiress of W. Tothill of Shardeloes (eldest by the way, of thirty-three children), married, about 1605, Francis Drake of Esher, thus founding the Drake family in Buckinghamshire. For an account of the house and family, see G. Eland's *Shardeloes Papers*.

Ascott

[C.3]

Hamlet and mansion in Wing parish, q.v.

Ashendon

[B.4]

is on one of the highest points which rise out of the Vale

of Aylesbury. The church is at the summit, the roofs of the thatched cottages are clustered round and below it to the S.; on every side is a wide prospect of rich and pleasant country-land. The church has a chancel, nave, S. aisle, and low W. tower. Note a blocked 12th-cent. doorway, and a single light EE. window, also some Dec. windows, and on N. wall of the chancel, the effigy, in Purbeck marble, of a knight in chain armour under a Dec. canopy.

Asheridge

[D.4]

Hamlet in Chartridge parish, with Congregational chapel. See Dundryge, etc., *post*.

Ashley Green

[D.5]

is an ecclesiastical parish, about 3 m. NE. of Chesham, with a modern church. Grove Farm, about a mile to the SE. of this church, has a barn which was originally a mediaeval domestic building defended by a wall and double moat, with remarkable octagonal gate towers, the foundations and some masonry of which still remain.

Askett

[C.5]

In Monk's Risborough parish; has a Baptist chapel and several old houses and cottages of the 16th and 17th cents.

Aston Abbots (Domesday, Estones),

[C.3]

the second name being added from its having been the property of the Abbey of St. Albans for several hundred years, is a small village $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of the Aylesbury and Leighton Road. The church was restored in 1865-6. The tower, late 15th cent., is noticeable, having a large square turret at SE. angle.

Aston Clinton

[C.4]

is an important village. SW. of it is Aston Clinton House, formerly one of the numerous possessions of the Rothschild family in this district, on the site of the old manor-house. The church is a large building in a spacious churchyard, which is attractive from its sheltering fringe of fine elms. The lofty Dec. chancel is the best feature in the church, which has also two aisles and W. tower. The Dec. sedilia are remarkably ornate, as is the piscina in N. wall, with two figures at each of the upper corners. The pillars between nave and aisles are alternately rounded and octagonal. The bowl of the old font is to be seen in the church (12th cent.).

Aston Sandford

[B.4]

is a small out-of-the-way village in the meadows of the Thame valley to the S. of Haddenham. It has only a small church (with a chancel, nave, and bell turret) which seems to have been rebuilt in the 13th cent., from which date some

fragments of glass in the E. window. The place obtained its second name from the family of Sandford, who possessed the manor at the end of the 12th cent.

Astwood

[D.1]

is the most easterly village of the county. The restored church has chancel, nave, S. aisle, and W. tower. The details are mixed in character, and features of interest are some Perp. pews, old Communion rails, fine Royal Arms of William IV. The font is EE. with a plain bowl supported on four circular shafts. Note brasses in S. aisle, E. end, Thomas Chivnale and his first and second wives, 1534. The church was damaged during the war of 1939-45.

Aylesbury (Anglo-Saxon Aeglesburgh), (Pl. 6, 55) [B.4] the county town, was one of the strongest British fortresses which fell to the Saxons in 571. At a later date it became famous through its connexion with three holy women, St. Editha and St. Edburg, daughters of a Mercian prince, and their niece St. Osith. At the time of the Domesday survey the manor of Eilesberga belonged to the Crown, but, in 1204, King John granted it to Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex—later it went to the Botelers, and by female descent came to Thomas Bullen, father of Anne Boleyn, who sold it to Sir John Baldwin, Knt., whose son-in-law, Robert Packington, came into possession in 1545, and his descendants continued to hold it till 1802. The Packingtons sold the manor to the Marquis of Buckingham, who held it till 1848. During the civil wars the town became a parliamentary stronghold, and was for a time the headquarters of Essex, and more than one vain attempt was made by the Royalists to seize it.

The town stands on a slight eminence in the rich vale which bears the same name, and spreads itself out from an old market square, the S. side of which is formed by the County Hall (building in 1720 onwards from designs by Harris, and containing a fine Court Room) and New Corn Exchange. The handsome county offices in Walton Street were opened in 1929.

Aylesbury contains a number of interesting old houses. The most remarkable is the King's Head Inn at the NW. corner of the Market Square. This, though still used as an inn, is now National Trust property and dates from the 15th cent. The hall is a fine specimen of mediaeval work and has a large window, still retaining some original glass, among which may be distinguished the arms of Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou. There are various old courts and alleys to the W. of the Market Square, where is situated the

romantically named 'Dark Lantern Inn'. Church Street, Temple Square, and Castle Street contain some admirable 18th-cent. frontages, some, particularly in Church Street, masking earlier buildings.

The county Museum, maintained by the Bucks. Archaeological Society, is in Church Street in an early 18th-cent. house, formerly the Grammar School. The adjoining premises, Ceely House, have also been acquired for conversion into museum purposes. There is now an excellent Library and Muniment Room and a collection of specimens from the county representing all periods from the Stone Age. There are also particularly important collections of 17th-cent. trade tokens, bygonies, and exhibits illustrative of the Bucks. lace-making industry, as well as natural history specimens. (Museum open daily, admission 6*d.*, children 3*d.*, free to members of the Bucks. Archaeological Society.)

The church of St. Mary is built partly on the site of an ancient, probably Saxon, church. It is a fine cruciform structure, and was completely restored in 1850 by Sir Gilbert Scott. On the whole, it must be regarded chiefly as EE. in character. Note on the exterior the fine W. EE. doorway, in the S. porch the EE. arcades, and the Perp. doorway to S. transept. The interior, which has all the spacious but rather cold character of EE. architecture, is full of interest, and presents a different appearance to what it must have borne before its restoration, for during the Commonwealth arches were blocked up and other acts of disfigurement perpetrated. The chancel (with modern triplet window) is EE. with a few later additions, as are also the arches, with water rims to bases and dog-tooth ornament on E. side of S. transept, the beautiful triforium of central tower, the arch, niche, and piscina on E. wall of N. transept (at present used as a vestry), the arcading in nave and one window in S. aisle. In the chapel of N. aisle are two 13th-cent. stone coffins in a double Dec. niche and a piscina on E. wall. A beautiful font (Norm.) stands in the S. aisle, and gives its name, Aylesbury, to a type found in several churches in Buckinghamshire and the adjacent counties. The N. vestry (15th cent.) is entered from the N. transept, and on one of the original doors is still to be seen a remarkable lock turned by a winch key; above this is a small room with a curious old fireplace.

The monument to Lady Lee, wife of Sir Henry Lee, 1584, in the N. transept is a fine example of Elizabethan sculpture. Lady Lee is depicted kneeling, behind her is a girl in the

same attitude, two infants in swaddling clothes lie near, the inscription describing her virtues and life shows how general had become the heroic and archaic verse which we generally associate with the *Faerie Queen*. This monument was brought from the disused church at Quarendon; near it, in a recess, is an alabaster effigy of a knight in a coat of mail, removed from the site of the Grey Friars' Monastery.

The Prebendal House stands to the W. of the churchyard. It was for some time the property of John Wilkes (1727–97) through his marriage with Mary Mead, whose father, a wealthy tradesman of London, was its owner. The marriage was an unhappy one for Mrs. Wilkes, but through it Wilkes was elected member for the borough in 1757. Lord Chancellor Westbury, then Mr. Bethell, was at one time M.P. for Aylesbury, as was John Lyly in 1593 and 1601. In Parson's Fee, the street on the S. side of the churchyard, are several houses dating from the 16th and 17th cents.

Near Aylesbury, the first Point to Point Steeplechase in England was run in, 1835, from Waddesdon Windmill to a field just below Aylesbury church. For a description, see Fowler's *Echoes of Old Country Life*.

Ballinger

[C.5]

District with considerable development in Great Missenden parish, in good undulating country.

Barton Hartshorn

[A.3]

is a mere hamlet on the borders of the county close to Oxfordshire among low-lying pastures. The church is small and unimportant; most parts are modern.

Beachampton (Domesday, Bechenstone)

[B.2]

lies close to the Ouse on the NW. border of the county. The village is small, as is the church, a good deal restored.

The monument to Sir Simon Benett—the bust of a man in a wig and lace cravat—who died in 1631, was oddly enough not erected until 128 years after his death. The glass in the E. window is a memorial of Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford (d. 1873).

A brass in N. aisle commemorates William Bawdyn (blacksmith), 1600, and one in S. aisle, Ales Baldwyn, 1611.

Beachampton Hall, now the Hall Farm (17th cent.) stands close to the Ouse, but much of it was pulled down in the 18th cent. A fine staircase, together with other fittings, has been taken out and removed elsewhere. Two charming old stone gate-piers still remain.

The former Grammar School, founded and endowed by William Elmer in 1652, still stands on the outskirts of the

village. It has a projecting porch and a cupola and dormer windows added in the 18th cent.

Beacon's Bottom

[B.5]

Hamlet in Stokenchurch parish.

Beaconsfield (Pl. 7, 8)

[D.6]

The old town is situated on a high tableland, 1 m. to the S. of the new town, which has sprung up around the railway station and is a popular residential centre. The main street of the old town is formed by the main Oxford-London road, the E. portion of which is known as London End and the W. as Wycombe End. The two streets running respectively N. and S. are known as Aylesbury End and Windsor End. All four are very spacious, and the main street is a charming tree-lined thoroughfare containing many good examples of 18th-cent. red-brick houses, some being older timber structures refaced.

The church, in the centre of the old town, is a large flint-covered, uninteresting building, which was completely restored in 1869, though the Perp. arcades and chancel arch remain. On the S. wall is a simple oval marble tablet in memory of Burke, his wife, and his much-loved son Richard; his grave in the centre of the nave is marked by a brass plate. The simplicity and historic value of this mural monument has been somewhat disturbed by an incongruous memorial erected in 1898. In the centre of the nave there is also a fine brass containing the figures of John Warren of Whites Farm, his wife and children (1609), an interesting example of 17th-cent. brass work. An incised stone, with the figures of a man and a woman, a monument to Thomas Waller and his wife Dorothy (1626), is at the E. end of the N. aisle.

Against the N. wall stands a 17th-cent. chest, the panels of which contain paintings, and in the N. wall of the chancel is a recessed altar tomb—15th cent.

On the N. wall is a tablet in memory of Robert Lee, Gentleman, 1572, with some quaint and pleasing lines, of which the beginning runs:

'Let nothing cause the harte to quaille,
 Launche out the Boote, haule upp the saille
 Put from the earthly shoore
 And at the length thou shalt obtaine
 Unto the Port that shall remaine ffor evermore.'

The tomb of Edmund Waller (1605-87) is conspicuous in the churchyard under a walnut tree. It is in the form of a pyramid and is a dignified work by William Stanton.



7 BEACONSFIELD: EDMUND WALLER'S TOMB WITH THE
OLD RECTORY IN THE BACKGROUND



8 BEACONSFIELD: HIGH STREET

Waller's house, Hall Barn, stands to the SW. of the town, but is scarcely visible from the road; much of the house was built in the late 17th cent. during Waller's lifetime, and is a fine work in red brick with stone pilasters with large 18th cent. and later additions. The lay-out of the grounds with canal, vast yew hedges, an obelisk, and temples is one of the great features, and much of it was completed in Waller's time. Part of Colin Campbell's Great Room remains at the head of the Long Water.

On the SW. side of the church is the Old Rectory (not the Rectory), which was restored in 1901. It was begun in or about 1500, and was completed in 1543. It has been traditionally connected with Burnham Abbey, though on slender grounds. It is an excellent example of the architecture of its time, and occupies three sides of a quadrangle. The basement storey is constructed entirely of brick, glazed with chequered patterns; the upper storey, of which lofty gables and dormers break the roofs, is built of large timbers closely spaced and plastered between. To the N. side is attached the principal staircase, within a semi-cylindrical turret of timber—a curious and picturesque feature of the design. Nearby is the present Rectory, a fine 18th-cent. house with earlier stabling, garden walls, and panelling.

The site of Butler's Court or Gregories, once Burke's home, can no longer be visited, for it has now been built over. Gregories stood about a quarter of a mile from the road between Beaconsfield and the railway station, on the left going from the old town. The house was burnt down in 1813. Burke lived here from 1768 to 1797, and during this time the house became a resort of statesmen, politicians, and men of letters. Here Johnson and the Thrales stayed at the end of September 1774 when returning from their Welsh tour.

Wilton Park (now used by the Foreign Office) is on the edge of the golf course and has a good 18th-cent. and later house.

Hogback Wood, 1 m. W. of the station, is a pleasant beech wood, presented to the National Trust in 1925.

Beaumont End [C.5]

Hamlet in Little Missenden parish.

Bellingdon [D.5]

District of Chartridge parish, with mission-room and much modern development in 'ridge and bottom' country near Chesham. See Dundridge, etc.

Biddlesden

[A.2]

is on the Northamptonshire border in the NW. of the county. It was at one time a place of importance, for here was a Cistercian Abbey founded in 1147 by Ernald de Bosco. Remains of the Abbey existed in 1712, but it was demolished about fifteen years later, and the house of Biddlesden Park stands on its site. The Gothic church, too, has now also disappeared, and a building in Biddlesden Park—built in the 18th cent. and once used as a private chapel—serves as a parish church. This is a charming little brick structure, built 1730, incorporated with the stable buildings of the big house.

Bierton

[C.4]

is a straggling village about 1 m. long on either side of the main road from Aylesbury to Leighton Buzzard. Among modern brick cottages are still to be found some picturesque old buildings. Note especially a cottage near the church, of early 17th-cent. date, of brick and timber. The house next to the church has some picturesque old gables on the S. side. The church of 14th-cent. date, is cruciform—having nave, chancel, transepts, and central tower, and is one of the best of its period in Bucks. The windows are mostly poor Perp., but there are some fair two-light Dec. windows in either aisle. Internally, however, the size and height of the building is striking, the central tower being supported by four lofty columns faced by three half-rounded pillars. The details most to be noted are the two Dec. doorways in the S. transept, with elaborate cusps and finials, and the font, an excellent example of plain Norm. work. There are also two well-preserved niches on S. side of church, one having small columns. On the S. wall of chancel is a small but effective Jacobean monument to Samuel Bosse (1626), depicting two figures, a man and his wife kneeling at a desk, and below them six children in cots; seven others are behind them.

Bishopstone

[B.4]

Considerable hamlet, with some good houses, farms, and cottages in Stone parish.

Bledlow

[B.5]

is the most western of the villages which stand on the northern spurs of the Chilterns, and one of the most attractive. It is charmingly placed just above the low-lying meadows which stretch across the Thame Valley to Haddenham. It is a large, straggling village shaded by elms; behind it rises Wain Hill, some of it all woodland, the rest bare down.

At the Domesday survey Bledelau (name thought to be

Anglo-Saxon, meaning Bledda's Field or Hill) Manor was possessed by Robert, Earl of Morton, and in the reign of Henry VI was granted to Eton College. The church is situated on the edge of a wooded ravine known as 'The Lyde'. An old prophecy, said to have been spoken by Mother Shipton, runs as follows:

'They who live and do abide
Shall see Bledlow Church fall into the Lyde.'

There is evidence of the existence of a cruciform church in the 12th cent., of which part of the N. transept remains. Aisles seem to have been added to the nave, c. 1200, and were widened to absorb the transepts between 1260 and 1280, when the chancel also was rebuilt, the W. tower added and the aisles lengthened. The S. porch and several windows date from the 14th cent., a three-light window of this period being especially noticeable. The nave arcades, of c. 1200, are extremely good. Note a Norm. font of Aylesbury type with the cable ornament; above this the bowl is large, fluted, and at the head are bold ornaments of leaves in mouldings. There are two large niches in S. aisle. The screen is modern. On the N. side of chancel is a fine brass to William Hern, B.A., rector, 1525. He is in full Eucharistic vestments. There are interesting remains of mural paintings, that of St. Christopher in the N. aisle is a late example of the elaborate treatment of this subject in the 15th cent. The ornamental painting in the nave, and the subject of Adam delving and Eve spinning over the S. door, are 14th cent. Note also fragments of heraldic glass, mainly 14th cent.

Bledlow Cross is cut on the Chiltern ridge about 1 m. to the S. of the village. It measures about 75 ft. transversely. The other example of a turf cutting in Bucks. is the neighbouring *Whiteleaf Cross* (q.v.).

Bledlow Ridge

[B.5]

is a village occupying the long hogsback which runs S. from the main ridge of the Chilterns. It has a modern church and lies about 3 m. to the S. of Bledlow village. This whole area is one of the most beautiful and delightful parts of the Chiltern range with wide-spreading views over the Vale of Aylesbury from the scarp and over the tumbled hinterland to the SE.

Bletchley

[C.2]

well known to railway travellers on the London Midland Region system, is now a modern town which is continuous with Fenny Stratford (q.v.) on Watling Street. The old

village of Bletchley lies $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to the W. of the station and the church is between the two. It stands on high ground, and is of some size, with nave, two aisles—N. aisle extending the whole length of the church—chancel and W. tower, Perp., with pinnacles and turret. The S. doorway has good Norm. work, and there are several Dec. details. In the De Wilton Chapel, NE., is an alabaster monument—a recumbent effigy—to Richard Lord Grey de Wilton (d. 1442), and on the N. wall of chancel notice the remarkable engraved portrait on copper, with curious surroundings—a skeleton shovelling earth to a grave, etc.—of Thos. Sparke, D.D., 1616.

Bletchley Manor was owned by Walter Giffard in the reign of William II and by the De Greys of Wilton, descendants of Roesia, sister of Walter Giffard, second Earl of Buckinghamshire, till the year 1603.

Boarstall (Pl. 25)

[A.4]

lies in the hilly and wooded district on the border of Oxfordshire. The picturesque and massive gateway with embattled turrets, is now the only remains of Boarstall Tower. It retains its cross-loops for bows and arrows and is of 14th-cent. date, altered in the 17th. It is now used as a private residence and was presented to the National Trust in 1943. Boarstall, or Borrestalle, in ancient times lay within the important Forest of Bernwood, which began near Brill and extended into Oxfordshire. According to a legend, picturesque enough in itself but quite without foundation, the name is derived from a feat of forestry by one Nigel, who slew a famous boar and presented the head to Edward the Confessor. The name, however, clearly comes from some local circumstance; possibly the original word was Burghstalle. The mansion of Boarstall seems to have been built in 1312, when Sir John de Handlo received the royal permission to fortify and embattle his house—'Muro de petra et calce firmare et kemellare.' An old print depicts the place in 1695 surrounded on three sides by a moat—the existing gateway in front—behind it the house, with formal gardens and alleys on either side, and in the rear of all the meadows, with horses and cattle. The present paved approach across the moat was made in 1735, but the great gateway enables us to picture for ourselves Boarstall in days gone by. Boarstall, being intermediate between Oxford and Aylesbury, was of some importance during the Civil War. Garrisoned by the Royalist forces in the first instance, it was evacuated by them in 1644. It was subsequently retaken by the Royalists under Colonel Gage, and from that time until it surrendered

to Fairfax, on June 10, 1646, it was constantly besieged. The remains of Boarstall House still testify to its strength, and are the most suggestive relics of the great Civil War which are left in Buckinghamshire. The church, entirely rebuilt in 1818 by Sir John Aubrey, is without interest.

Bockmer End

[B.6-C.6]

A cluster of farms and cottages in remote and lovely country behind Medmenham.

Booker

[C.6]

Scattered district with a few old cottages and farms and much recent development, and a war-time training aerodrome in West Wycombe parish.

Botley

[D.5]

Hamlet in Latimer parish, on the Chesham-Hemel Hempstead road, with chapel.

Bourne End

[C.6]

A modern riverside resort and residential area on the Thames. It takes its name from the spot where the Wye river (or bourne) enters the Thames.

Boveney

[C.7]

is a hamlet in the parish of Burnham, and has a small church of 12th-cent. origin with details of later date, standing among elms near the Thames. It has a chancel and nave and a bell turret. Note the coloured fragments of alabaster figures preserved under glass.

Bovingdon Green

[D.5]

Consists of an old inn and one or two old houses or cottages round an open space on the high ground above Marlow. There is considerable modern development in the area.

Bradenham

[C.5]

is a secluded and charming little village, and interesting by associations. It is on the NE. side of the valley, a short distance from the main road which runs from High Wycombe to Prince's Risborough, from which a lane leads to an oval green. On the N. side old and picturesque cottages give it a pleasant homely air. At the top, separated only by the garden wall, are the church and manor-house; behind are beeches and firs on the hill-side, beyond which extend the turf and heather and fir trees of Naphill Common. The short tower of the church is shaded by large fir trees. At the edge of the green are stately stone pillars and old ironwork, whence a straight walk leads up to the manor-house. The church is quite a small building, with nave, chancel, W. tower and S. porch. The S. doorway is a fine specimen of very early Norm. work. There are two noteworthy monuments,

one to the Hon. Charles West (1684) and the other to Isaac Disraeli. Note also the brass to Richard Redeberd, rector, 1521. The heraldic glass is noteworthy. Bradenham is intimately associated with the Disraelis—with the last years of Isaac Disraeli and the youth of Benjamin Disraeli. The manor-house was tenanted by Isaac Disraeli from 1829 until his death in 1848, and it was on the pleasant commons and among the beechwoods of the adjoining hills that in Benjamin Disraeli grew up the love of the county of Buckinghamshire and of the Chiltern Hills, which he retained throughout his life. Those who have *Endymion* on their shelves can perceive how deeply Bradenham was fixed in Lord Beaconsfield's memory, for under the name of Hurstley he describes in the beginning of the eleventh chapter the home of his boyhood, while here and there in succeeding pages one can note a sketch of some feature of the surrounding landscape. The manor of Bradenham appears to have been the only manor in Bucks. which after the Conquest remained in the possession of its Saxon owner, and Swartling, as his name was, must have built the original church.

Bradwell

[C.2]

is a parish S. of Wolverton, divided by the Ouse. The church was originally EE., having been founded some time in the 13th cent. It has fairly good Dec. windows. Note nail-head ornament on E. window, and extremely interesting remains of 13th-cent. inscriptions on chancel arch. The tower contains two of the earliest bells in the county (c. 1300), by Michael de Wymbis.

To the S. of Bradwell Church once stood the small Benedictine Priory of St. Mary, founded about 1155 by Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton.

There are considerable remains of a chapel, which forms part of a farm building—a three-light W. window and a S. door with ball-flower ornament, which is blocked up, and a few other details. Much of the material seems to be reset.

Bradwell, New,

[C.2]

with a modern church, is a suburb of Wolverton, and is chiefly inhabited by railwaymen. It has absorbed the former old village of Stantonbury (q.v.), the deserted church of which stands solitary by the Ouse.

Brays Green

[C.5]

Hamlet in Little Missenden and Penn Street parishes.

Brickhills, The

[C.2-C.3]

These are three villages on the Bedfordshire border. An old local rhyme links them as follows:

'Here stand three Brickhills all in a row—
Little Brickhill, Great Brickhill, and Brickhill in the
Bow.'

In Domesday the name is Brichelle, of this the modern name is merely a corruption. A family named Boel had lands at the Brickhills in the reign of John, and the word Bow is obviously the same as that of this family, for, as often happened, an additional name became attached to a village from its connexion with a particular family, e.g. *Weston Turville*.

Bow Brickhill

[C.2]

the most northerly of the three villages, is a long village picturesquely winding up the slope of a high hill. At the top is the church, strikingly placed (530 ft.), with a fine view to the W., and behind pinewoods and heath; it is chiefly late Perp. work. It contains a Perp. font and an oak pulpit, Perp., brought from Buckingham.

Brickhill. Great

[C.3]

This is the largest of the three villages (to the N. is the manor-house—modern). The church, in a picturesque churchyard, has a central tower and a chancel of the 13th cent. The arches of the nave are all pointed. During the Civil War, in 1643, Essex and the Parliamentary army were stationed there.

Brickhill, Little

[C.2]

comes next to Bow Brickhill. It is attractively situated, but has no particular object of interest. The church is of various dates and contains a small circular 13th-cent. font. Roman remains have been found along the Watling Street towards Fenny Stratford, which indicate the site of a Roman post town, possibly the *Magiovintum*, or *Magiovinium*, of the Antonine itineraries.

Brill (Pl. 47)

[A.4]

a village in a remarkable position, covering the flat summit of a high hill (694 ft.). Around, the counties of Buckingham and Oxford are outstretched, and to the S. the Chiltern Hills are outlined to the view. This natural formation explains the importance of Brill in the past. On a spur of the hill to the N. of the village commanding a magnificent view, stands the 17th-cent. post-mill, which has been repaired and is now well cared for.

No traces of the Royal Palace which once stood here can now be seen: it was the occasional residence of Edward the Confessor and the Norman kings. Situated as it was in

Bernwood Forest, it appears to have been one of their favourite hunting boxes. At the Domesday survey Brill (Brunhelle), including Boarstall, Kingsey, and Radnage, is described as the King's Manor. From 1337 to 1553 the manor was in the possession of Sir John de Molyns and his descendants, the Hungerfords and Hastings. At the commencement of the Civil War Charles I placed troops at Brill to protect Oxford from the Parliamentary forces of Buckinghamshire; it was evacuated after the fall of Reading. The church, restored in 1901, is a wide building with chancel and nave built about 1220, two large aisles and low W. tower. The best features are the Norm. work in the N. doorway, and the 17th-cent. roof of the chancel.

The manor-house at the SW. end of the village, by the road to Thame, is a picturesque and noticeable old house, remodelled late in the 16th cent. An old local rhyme links Brill with some neighbouring villages as follows:

'Brill on the hill, Oakley in the hole.
Dirty little Ickford, shabby Worminghall.'

Broughton

[C.2]

is a small village on the main road from Woburn Sands to Newport Pagnell. The church, which stands on high ground, with an extensive view to the W., is a small building. The details are not particularly noticeable. Within the church are two old desks, to which are fastened by chains Jewel's *A Defence of the Apologie of the Church of England*, Anno, 1567, and Erasmus's *Commentary*. These were placed in the church in 1632. Note also the interesting paintings on N. and S. walls of nave (unfortunately 'retouched'), the Virgin holding dismembered parts of Christ's body, intended as a warning to swearers and blasphemers, a Doom, St. Helena, St. Eloy, and St. George and the Dragon. These are of c. 1400 and 15th cent.

Bryants Bottom

[C.5]

Hamlet with Methodist chapel in Prestwood parish.

Buckingham (Pl. 9, 10)

[B.2]

gives its name to the county, and was made the capital when the kingdom was divided into shires by King Alfred in 886. Thirty-two years later we hear of Edmund the Elder lying with his army at Buckingham during his advances against the Danes. After the Conquest Walter Giffard, created Earl of Buckingham in 1070, possessed the manor, and members of this family continued the paramount lordship till Henry VIII, seized it after the execution of Edward Stafford, the



9 BUCKINGHAM: MARKET HILL AND THE TOWN HALL



10 CASTLE HOUSE, BUCKINGHAM

last Duke of Buckingham of this family. In this same reign the assizes were removed to Aylesbury, and the town sank into unimportance. During the Civil Wars the Corporation took the Royalist side, but the town was never garrisoned, and sheltered Royalists and Parliamentarians alternately. Buckingham is now chiefly interesting as a good example of the typical country town of the early 19th cent., for it increases but slowly in size and remains in appearance the same from decade to decade. In former times its prosperity rose or fell with the proprietorship of Stowe. The Market Square, known as the Bull Ring, reminiscent of the barbaric pastime of bull-baiting, is picturesque, a notable feature being an old 'middle row' of shops and an old jail in the form of a sham castle. This building was erected by Viscount Temple at his own expense, 'the Summer Assizes being removed to this place in the year 1748'. The original front faced N., but in 1839 the circular stone front was erected on the S.

The town suffered from a disastrous fire in 1725, which accounts for the rebuilding of much of it. Notable houses are No. 1 Market Hill, a fine early 16th-cent. house containing wall-paintings; the manor-house, in Church Street, with twisted chimney of Elizabethan date; Trolly Hall, in Castle Street, of early 18th-cent. date; and Castle House, in West Street, a good example of 18th-cent. brickwork. This house was known also as the House of Lambard, from an early 17th-cent. owner. The building incorporates part of a large house of c. 1500 and has much fine woodwork of this date, and of c. 1619 and later. Richard Fowler lodged Katherine of Aragon, first queen of Henry VIII, here in 1514.

The church, finely placed on the site of the old castle, was completely rebuilt in the latter part of the 18th cent., except for the tower and spire. The body of the church was again rebuilt in the mid-19th cent., but retains some old fittings, notably some carved desk-ends.

The St. John's Royal Latin School, founded by Edward VI, is still in existence under modern conditions, though the building has been altered. Note a good Norm. doorway, which once was part of a chantry founded in the 12th cent., and subsequently absorbed in the school. It now belongs to the National Trust.

No account of Buckingham is complete without a reference to St. Rumbold, or Rumbald, a mythical child saint, to whose shrine at Buckingham there was considerable resort,

in the Middle Ages. There are eight dedications of parish churches to him in England. According to tradition he was the son of Rumbald, King of Northumbria, his mother being the daughter of Penda, King of Mercia. As soon as he was born, at King's Sutton, Northants, in A.D. 623, he declared loudly, 'I am a Christian', and demanded baptism. This rite was performed at Sutton by Bishop Wilderin and the precocious infant then preached a sermon, dying three days later. His body, according to the legend at his own instance, rested for one year at King's Sutton, the next two years at Brackley, and subsequently at Buckingham for ever. There was formerly an aisle or chapel in the old parish church at Buckingham dedicated to him. Several 'Holy Wells' became associated with his name, at which healings took place. One of these was at Astrop in King's Sutton parish: three were at Brackley, and another at Buckingham, whose memory and neighbourhood are preserved in the street-names of St. Rumbold's Lane and Well Street. Rumbold of Buckingham should not be confused with another Rumbold who was martyred in 775 when preaching Christianity in Germany.

Buckland

[C.4]

is a prosperous village in the low-lying fields close to the northern limit of the Chilterns, and forms, with Drayton Beauchamp and Aston Clinton, a closely connected group of villages. The church, which is in the centre of the village, has been much restored. The nave is separated by circular piers, with octagonal capitals on N., from an aisle. The tower arch is EE. The best architectural detail is the S. doorway (restored), which has a flower ornament, and a dripstone terminating in two mediaeval heads. The font is early 13th cent., with fluted ornament on the bowl, and is a fine work.

Bulstrode Park

[D.6]

has one gate on Gerrard's Cross Common, now leading only to a residential estate, another on the Oxford road, and a third on the Hedgerley road. The park of about 800 acres slopes in a semicircle from the house, which stands on the site of a much older building, and was built by the Duke of Somerset in 1862. This property belonged to the Bulstrodes, then it was owned by Judge Jeffreys, who rebuilt the house in 1686.

It was subsequently sold to William III's favourite minister, William Bentinck, first Earl of Portland, who constantly lived here from the time of his retirement from active political life to his death in 1709. In the days of the

second duke, Bulstrode became, under the rule of the Duchess (Lady Margaret Cavendish Harley), a social centre as well as a storehouse of beautiful things. Here was the rare Portland or Barberini vase which is now in the British Museum. 'Bulstrode,' wrote Mrs. Montagu in 1741, 'is the most charming place I ever saw.' In the time of the third Duke of Portland (1738-1809) it became an important political mansion. Statesmen and politicians gathered here. First, the Rockingham Whigs, of which party the third duke was an important member; and then the friends of the curious Coalition Ministry (1783) of Fox and North, of which the Duke was the nominal head. Next, Tories resorted here when the French Revolution broke the Whig party, more especially after the Duke became one of Pitt's administration in 1794, and in the last years of his life, from 1807 to 1809, when, after the fall of his neighbour Lord Grenville's government, he again became Prime Minister, commencing that series of Tory administrations which was not broken till Lord Grey came into office and carried the Reform Bill of 1832.

The property passed by purchase in 1814 to the Duke of Somerset and subsequently on his death, in 1885, to Sir John Ramsden. The estate was sold in 1932 and the house is now partly used for commercial purposes, the E. portion of the park having been developed for building. An important 'plateau' camp, oval in shape and covering 22 acres, is to be seen in SE. of the park. This was excavated in 1924, and found to be of Iron Age date.

Burcott

[C.3]

There are two hamlets of this name; one in Bierton-with-Broughton parish, and one in Wing. Neither has any feature of interest.

Burnham

[C.6]

is a large village on the edge of the Thames Valley; the greater part of it, more especially the upper or NE. part, is modern. In the lower part of the main street are some old buildings of probably the 16th cent. The church is a large cruciform building of considerable interest. Note the curious position of the tower at the E. end of the S. aisle. Its lower stages date from c. 1200, when it was added to an earlier (Norm.) building. About 1220 the chancel was rebuilt and lengthened, and other alterations made. The N. arcade dates from c. 1230, and the S. from a few years later. At two periods in the 14th cent. up to 1350 the nave was lengthened towards the W., and various windows inserted,

notably the E. window. In the 15th cent. the porch was added and other windows inserted. There are several interesting monuments in this church on N. side of chancel, one, of which the inscription is now illegible, was transcribed by Lipscombe. The chief features of this monument are the two half-length figures of a man and woman—very realistic and powerful—representing George Evelyn of Huntercombe, 1657, and his wife, 1661.

On the S. side is a bust, in a niche, of a divine in gown and quilled ruff, also a good piece of work. This represents John Wright, Vicar of Burnham, 1561–94. In the S. aisle is a monument by Bacon to Mr. Justice Willes (d. 1787), a bas-relief, with one of the usual lamenting females holding the scales of justice. On a slab on W. wall of nave are brass effigies of Edmund Eyre and his wife (1563); there are also brasses of Giles Eyre, Gent (c. 1500), and children, also of Thomas Eyre, Gent, of Allerds, 1581, with his three wives and children. These brasses were found to be palimpsest in 1933, having fine Flemish engravings of 15th-cent. date on the reverse. Note inscriptions on S. arcade piers: 'The Pope is a knave'; 'The Pope is a Vilin.'

Burnham was of some ecclesiastical importance in the Middle Ages in consequence of the Augustinian Abbey which was founded in 1266 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans. The remains of the abbey are to the S. of the village across the Bath Road, on the right-hand side of the road to Dorney. The remains were for a long time built up with farm buildings, but were largely restored in 1916 and are now inhabited by nuns of the order of the Precious Blood. Several EE. details, doorways, and windows can be seen in the E. range of claustral buildings. The frater occupied the N. side, and there are considerable remains, with 16th-cent. additions. Note the chapter-house doorway, the sacristy, and the remarkable wall with tiled coping which surrounds the field which adjoins the house. Nashdom Abbey, an Anglican Benedictine monastery, occupies a large country mansion designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Huntercombe Manor House has remains of 14th-cent. hall; screens, etc., with additions of 1650 and later.

Burnham, East

[D.6]

is a straggling collection of houses on the E. side of Burnham Beeches. Grote, the historian, once lived at E. Burnham House. Mrs. Grote gives a description of E. Burnham in her *Collected Papers* (London: Murray, 1862).

BURNHAM BEECHES



Burnham Beeches (Pl. 11)

[D.6]

form, strictly speaking, a piece of woodland in which are comprised the unique old trees which are the historic beeches. Popularly it consists not only of the beeches and of woodland, but of the adjoining commons, and may be said to be the area of ground purchased by the Corporation of the City of London in 1880, and now dedicated to the public use. The beeches grow on undulating ground, having East Burnham Common on the E. side. The wild tract of undulating land, of which the Beeches form the centre, at the beginning of the 18th cent. extended to Taplow and the Woburn Valley, for we know that Dropmore was reclaimed by Lord Grenville from its uncultivated state in 1792. On the E. even now, with the exception of the small enclosures at East Burnham and the residences and fields between East Burnham and Stoke Common, which are comparatively modern enclosures, the uncultivated land, heath, and wood extends—including Stoke Common and Black Park—to the Colne and the borders of Middlesex. Iver Heath, now all cultivated, tells by its name of its former state. The beeches are very striking. They are entirely unlike the ordinary wide-spreading tree, their short but huge branches, often fantastic in form, as though the natural strength of the trees had exhausted itself in a vain struggle for upward freedom, give them a weird individuality. They are pollarded trees, and many stories have grown from this, none of which are of any credibility. For unquestionably these trees were pollarded to supply crops of fuel. The history of the English forests shows the value which was attached to the fuel from the forests both by lords and adjoining inhabitants. The beech was seldom pollarded; it was allowed to grow to a lofty and shapely tree, and then cut wholly down, the beechwoods of Bucks. being cropped at regular intervals. It is certain, therefore, that at some time in their existence the trees must have been pollarded by an individual owner, whose successors must have allowed them to remain in the same state, lopping their new-grown limbs from time to time. Of their age nothing can be said with certainty. For years they have been in a state of very slow decay. In the ordinary course of natural growth the trees could hardly have reached their full size under a couple of centuries, but it is long since they attained their prime, so that it is not improbable that they were saplings not many years after the Conquest.

When Gray used to wander among them they probably differed little from their state to-day, for writing to Horace

Walpole in 1737 he tells how 'vale and hill are covered with most venerable beeches—that, like most other ancient people are always dreaming out their old stories to the winds'. A prehistoric and a mediaeval earthwork are included in the arena.

The N. part of the Beeches beyond Victoria and Halse Drives is chiefly young woodland, with an occasional old pollarded beech, and forms a secluded and delightful rambling ground.

Butlers Cross

[C.4]

Modern development area in Ellesborough parish on the main road.

Cadmore End with Lewknor-Up-Hill

[B.6]

Parish formed in 1852 from Fingest and Lewknor parishes, with church to match, in fine upland country.

Caldecott

[C.2]

Hamlet of Newport Pagnell.

Caldecotte

[C.2]

Hamlet of Bow Brickhill, contains an old farm-house and some cottages.

Calverton

[B.2]

is on the Northants border. The church is a good example of the Gothic revival of mid-Victorian times. It is in the Dec. style, with good glazing and decoration of the period. The tower, in the Norm. style, dates from 1824. The manor-house near the church is a good example of a 15th-cent. building with later additions.

Castlethorpe

[C.1]

was at one time part of Hanslope, and a mere hamlet, is now a fair-sized village through its proximity to the railway. The principal feature of the place is a large and impressive earthwork of the mount and bailey type, the reputed site of Hanslope Castle. The outworks, which are cut through by the main railway line, W. and SW. of the mount, are an unusual feature and the church stands within the area of the fortifications. This has a curious plan, the nave being very short and very wide. The N. aisle was added to the nave c. 1190 and consists of two bays, divided by a massive column, having a capital showing remarkable carving; the chancel is of 14th-cent. date, the N. aisle was rebuilt and the S. aisle added in the 15th cent., while the W. tower is of 18th-cent. date. The font is late 15th-cent. work. An elaborate Jacobean monument to Sir Thomas Tyrill (d. 1671) and Bridget, his wife, is on N. side of chancel. The idea of it is unusual and rather pathetic—the semi-recumbent figure of the man is supported by his wife.

Chackmore

[B.2]

Hamlet in the parish of Radclive.

Chalfont St. Giles (Pl. 12)

[D.6]

The name in Domesday was Celfunde, from Saxon Ceadeles funtan—Ceadel's spring. St. Giles is a pretty village with its red-tiled cottages grouped among the meadows, and a low square church tower rising from among them. Its chief interest centres in the ancient cottage which, there seems little doubt, was Milton's home for some months. Milton came to Chalfont to escape the plague in London, and occupied 'a pretty box' which Ellwood obtained for him from July 1665 till the following spring. Milton must have known the Chalfonts long before the year of the plague. He lived in early manhood for several years at Horton (q.v.). The cottage is on the left side of the main street leading up the hill. Within are some interesting Miltonian relics. It may have been in this room that Milton asked Ellwood to read the manuscript of *Paradise Lost*. At Chalfont he certainly first thought out the plan of *Paradise Regained*.

The church, with a nave and two aisles, contains some remnants of good work, and is most interesting on account of the development of the plan—Norm. bases to piers on S. side, a window and fine double piscina, EE., on S. side of the chancel, a single-light window, Dec., on N. side of chancel, and a Norm. font restored. The S. arcade and chancel arch were rebuilt about 1410. There are brasses under the recess in S. wall of S. aisle of a man and two women, and on altar tomb at E. end of aisle the effigies of William Gardyner, Esq., and Anne, his wife, with nine children, 1558, and on N. wall of N. aisle, a palimpsest inscription. On the N. wall of chancel within the communion rails are the effigies of Sir Thomas Fleetwood, his two wives and eighteen children, and on the same wall the small effigy of an ecclesiastic (c. 1471). Note several old pews, and an ancient alms-box near W. door; also the pleasing S. doorway, Dec., with ball-flower ornament.

The mural paintings, treated by Prof. E. W. Tristram in 1929, are among the most important in Buckinghamshire. Those in the S. aisle are all early 14th cent.; the architectural painting on the chancel arch is 15th cent. The subjects in S. aisle, from E. to W., are: scenes from the life of the Virgin—St. Anne and the Virgin, fragmentary; the miracle of the Jewish boy of Bourges; the miracle of Theophilus and the deed by which he had sold his soul to the Devil, restored. Old Testament scenes: the Creation, Temptation,



11 BURNHAM BEECHES

an especial martyr to the religious enthusiasm of the Friends, being imprisoned four times in Aylesbury jail, and his family was obliged to leave the Grange in 1665. A pathway (left) at S. (London) end of the village leads through the meadows and Chalfont Park to a by-road to Denham, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. The house belonging to the park is seen by the lake. It has some literary interest, for it belonged to Charles Churchill, nephew of the great Duke of Marlborough, who, in 1746, married Lady Maria Walpole, the sister of Horace Walpole, who, from 1760, frequently spent a day or two here, and left some of his Strawberry Hill influence on the architecture of the place. The property passed out of the possession of the Churchills in 1792. This house, with its lovely Italian garden by Lutyens, is now an aluminium research establishment and the amenities largely destroyed.

In the uplands, about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. to the NE., is the colony of the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, an institution modelled on that of Bielefeld, and established—the first of its kind in England—in 1893. It can be visited at any time.

Chalkshire

[C.5]

Hamlet in Ellesborough parish with chapel.

Chartridge

[C.5]

is a new parish with a modern church on the high ground to the NE. of Chesham. (*See* Dundridge, etc., *Post.*)

Chearsley

[B.4]

is a small village on high ground on the side of the Thame Valley. The cottages lie along the broken ground very prettily. The church is to the S. of the village down a steep lane. It has a W. tower built in the first half of 15th cent. with turret, nave, and chancel. The marks of the high-pitched roof can still be seen in the tower. This church is now marked chiefly by Perp. features. The fine font, with early 13th-cent. circular bowl fluted below with cable and flower ornaments above, is to be noted. In the floor of the chancel, almost immediately beneath the reading-desk, is a well-preserved brass to John Frankeleyn and his wife Margaret, 1472.

Cheddington

[C.4]

is without any feature of interest, nor is the church of any importance, though it is well situated on a hillock with a pleasant belt of trees around. It has a low W. tower, nave, aisle, and chancel; the 17th-cent. pulpit and communion table are noticeable.

Cheddington, however, possesses in its 'lynchets' an object

of considerable importance. They will be found to the SW. of the village and are a conspicuous object on the landscape. They consist of three broad terraces on the hill-side facing E. Of course various absurd traditions are preserved about them in local histories, but their true nature has been now clearly established. They are survivals of the common field system which was an important element in the Saxon and mediaeval village community. 'When a hill-side,' says Mr. Seebohm in his work on *The English Village Community*, 'formed part of the open field the strips almost always were made to run, not up and down the hill, but horizontally along it; and in ploughing, the custom for ages was always to turn the sod of the furrow downhill, the plough consequently always returning one way idle. In the open-field system the hill-side was ploughed in strips with unploughed walks between them, and no sod could pass in the ploughing from one strip to the next; but the process of moving the sod downwards would go on age after age just the same within each individual strip. In other words, every year's ploughing took a sod from the higher edge of the strip and put it on the lower edge; and the result was that strips became in time long level terraces one above the other, and the walks between them grew into steep rough banks.'

The lynchets of Cheddington are the best examples in the county of an agricultural and social feature of much historical interest.

Chenies, once Isenhampstead-Cheyne (Pl. 13) [D.5]
This village is altogether charming in its neatness and abundance of little flower gardens, its ancient elms, and its outlook over the hanging woods of the valley of the Chess. The chief object of interest is the chapel of the Russells, built 1556, and since extended and modernized, which forms part of, though separated from, the church, which has been much restored, and has Dec. pillars and arches and a Norm. font of Aylesbury type. The Russell monuments have been described by Froude in his essay on 'Chenies and The House of Russell'—*Short Studies on Great Subjects*, Vol. IV. They are characterized by Mrs. Esdaile as 'one of the finest collections of tombs in England'.

The chapel is not open to the public, though special orders may sometimes be obtained from the Bedford Office, Bloomsbury. The lords of this manor were, firstly, Cheynes. Note the fine brass of Lady Agnes Cheyne on W. wall of S. aisle. The date of her death is obliterated; but the date of her second husband, Edmund Molyneux, is 1484. Then

came the Sapcotes. Anne, daughter of Sir Guy Sapcote, married Sir John Russell, the statesman of Henry VIII's time, who was created Baron Russell 1539. Through him Chenies entered into the possession of the Russell family. The monuments have artistic as well as historical interest as examples of English monumental sculpture, from the 15th cent. to our own time. Most conspicuous are the three monuments at the E. end.

Space will not permit the monuments to be described in detail. Some account of them will be found in *Chenies Church and Monuments*, by Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, London, 1901 (privately printed), and no one should omit to read Froude's description. The most important is that to John, first Earl of Bedford, K.G. (d. 1554), the first statesman of a remarkable family, and Anne Sapcote, his countess. The magnificent and beautiful memorial—two recumbent effigies in alabaster on a rich altar tomb—is in the centre of the chapel under the E. window. This has been identified as the work of William Cure II, Master-Mason to the Crown, who was probably also responsible for the other Russell tombs of the period. To the S. is the somewhat similar but inferior monument of Francis, second Earl, and his wife. To the N. is another altar tomb with alabaster effigy, and richly coloured—Anne, Countess of Warwick, daughter of the second Earl. In the centre of the chapel is a plain marble slab on Tuscan columns that commemorates Lady Frances Bouchier, grand-daughter of the second Earl. In the centre of N. wall is the memorial to Frances, Lady Chandos—a reclining figure. On the S. side is a memorial similar in character to the two first-mentioned monuments, but with a double-arched niche surmounted by a pediment. This is to Francis, fourth Earl, and his Countess and two daughters. This monument was erected by the Earl himself before his death (d. 1641), and it was he who erected the monument to Francis, second Earl, and to the Countess of Warwick. Against the W. wall is a large 17th-cent. monument to William, first Duke of Bedford (d. 1711)—the Duke and Duchess being seated side by side—and a medallion of Lord William Russell (beheaded 1683) is in the centre of the upper portion. A characteristic 18th-cent. work (erected 1769) commemorates Wrothesley, second Duke (d. 1711). It is allegorical in character from designs by Sir W. Chambers, R.A. This stands against the S. wall. The memorial of Earl Russell (Lord John Russell), the Whig statesman (1792–1878) is similar to that of Lady Frances Bouchier,



13 CHENIES: ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, THE RUSSELL CHAPEL AND MONUMENTS



14 CHICHELEY HALL

and is near S. wall, W. of door leading to the church. Lord Amptill (1829–84), the diplomatist, is commemorated by a tablet on S. wall over the memorial to Earl Russell. The monument in the form of a bronze candelabrum is that to Lord Arthur Russell (1857–85). Other monuments of less importance cannot here be enumerated. The windows were placed (1895–7) to commemorate those of the House of Russell, of whom no other memorial exists. They are from designs by C. E. Kempe, M.A.

In addition to the brasses already mentioned are several others of considerable interest, namely (1) the well-preserved brass of Anna Phelp (c. 1510), who holds a heart, and stands in a Dec. niche; (2) Agnes Johnson, in a long robe and hood (c. 1511); (3) Elizabeth, daughter of John Broughton (1524), with long flowing hair; (4) in the inner porch are John Walliston, Smythe (c. 1469) and his two wives; and (5) left of (2) a vested prior.

Near the church is the manor-house of the Russells, of mellow brick with splendidly grouped chimney-stacks and stepped gables of c. 1530, part of a larger mansion rebuilt on the site of an older house.

A few yards down the hill (on the main road to Chesham) right hand, is a bridle road through an avenue of old elms whence there is a charming view up the valley of the Chess, specially beautiful in evening light. The road leads across the valley to Sarratt (Herts.). The pathway at the W. end of the church leads to the Monks' Walk, with some traditions of a ghost—a shady pathway along the brow of the hill.

Chequers Court (Pl. 32)

[C.5]

(not open to public) is one of the historic houses of Bucks. In 1917 it was given by Lord Lee of Fareham to the nation as a country residence for the Prime Minister or other high official. It is built on a grassy gap in the Chilterns and is surrounded by trees and beechwoods. Architecturally it is of interest as an example of a domestic building of the 16th cent., for it was built in 1566. In the Georgian period it was defaced by additions of incongruous details, which have now been removed. The library, which extends along the S. front, is a noticeable room, 81 ft. long. Chequers has attained a celebrity from the collection of portraits of Cromwell and his family which it contains. The most important are those of the Protector's two sons and four daughters. There are three of Cromwell himself, but one, that of Cromwell as a child, is not regarded as genuine by good authorities. They found a home at Chequers through

the marriage of Cromwell's youngest daughter, Frances, to Sir John Russell of Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, whose grandson, Col. Charles Russell, married Joanna Cutts Rivett, heiress of her mother, Joanna Thurbarne, who was heiress by will of Mary, the last of the Crokes, who had inherited Chequers from the Hawtreys early in the 17th cent.

The ownership of Chequers can be traced through a long line of possessors for 770 years. The first owner of the property is described as Elias de Scaccariis or Elias Chakers in the 12th cent.

Lipscomb derives the name of the place from a supposed storehouse of the Exchequer, but the situation of the house makes this supposition unlikely. If the property were that of some officer of the Exchequer, perhaps the place took its name from him. The derivation must at present be considered as uncertain.

Chequers Court and its park are seen from the road between Butler's Cross and Great Missenden, or from the heights of the Chilterns, which overlook it on the E.

Chesham

[D.5]

is a flourishing little town at the head of the valley of the Chess, and a convenient place from which to make excursions into the pleasant country between Chesham, the Chilterns, and the Hertfordshire border. Chesham is now so modern in appearance that it is less attractive than the other little towns of the Chilterns. It possesses several small industries. A few old houses with overhanging eaves and lattice windows may still be found in Church Street, of which No. 54 is particularly interesting. This house is of 14th-cent. date and contains some fine timber tracery above the modern window in the gable. The church (SW. side of town), which is a large cruciform structure, stands on the site of a Norm. church, of which only half a window in the W. wall of N. transept is left. Of EE. work, observe the lower part of the tower below the string course, a lancet window in W. wall of N. aisle, and the nave arches; and of Dec. porch with a groined roof, stoup and inner doorway with ball-flower decorations, and the chancel of Perp., the W. window of nave, also windows in N. and S. walls of the transepts, as well as clerestory windows. Note also two 'low-side' windows, one on either side of the chancel and some old glass in the N. clerestory of the nave and in the N. transept.

Note on the N. wall of chancel a curious monument to Richard Woodcote, 1623, and several old sundials on the buttresses of S. aisle, and in the parvise over the porch,

entered by turret stair from S. aisle, fragments of Norm. work. There are very faint traces of a wall-painting of St. Christopher.

Near the church is the Bury, a good 18th-cent. house, long associated with the Lowndes family, now the headquarters of a large turkey farm. It was built by Mr. Secretary ('Ways and Means') Lowndes, and subsequently added to.

Chesham Bois

[D.5]

is now indistinguishable from the new town known as Amersham-on-the-Hill. It is situated on the S. of Chesham Bois Common, on the large ridge which divides the valley of the Chess from the Misbourne Valley. The church is finely situated in a pleasant meadow overlooking the valley of the Chess, and is approached through a drive, which is the entrance to a private house. In 1881 the tower was rebuilt and placed at SW. angle, and the building generally has been much restored. Note, however, fine chancel roof and corbels in nave and chancel. There is a carved pulpit (17th cent.), and in the floor of the chancel a small brass to Benedict Lee (1520) of a chrysom child (the chrysom was the white cloth in which an infant was wrapped immediately after baptism, and which served as a shroud if the child died within a month of its birth). Adjoining are two fine 16th-cent. brasses, memorials of Elizabeth, wife of Robert Cheyne, Gent., 1516, and of Robert Cheyne, Esq., 1552, showing much elaboration of treatment both in the features and dress. The E. window and others in the chancel contain important remains of old glass with shields of arms of the Cheyne and other families rearranged and restored.

Chetwode

[A.3]

is another of those remote places in the county which in reality had no village, the church being the centre of the parish. Here was a small Augustinian Priory, founded in 1244 by Sir Ralphe de Norwich.

The church consists of nave and chancel, built c. 1250, which were the chancel of the Priory Church; N. chapel, added c. 1330; and W. tower, late 15th cent. The building became parochial in 1480, when the old parish church was ruinous and the Priory much impoverished. The S. window has important old glass of the 13th and 14th cents.—depicting five figures and coats of arms; the figures include St. John the Baptist with the Agnus Dei, St. Peter, an archbishop in mass vestments, the Virgin, crowned, and part of a Crucifixion. There is much fine E.E. work, notably the five-light E. window and the N. and S. triplets, with flowers and

animals on the capitals of the shafts. On S. side is a beautiful arcade with shafts and foliated capitals, and the toothed ornament in hollow mouldings. One compartment forms the doorway into the gardens of the priory. On a slab in the chancel is an inscription to the memory of Risley Risley, 1755, which mentions, among his other virtues, the pleasant trait that 'he was a gentleman of great hospitality'.

Chicheley (Pl. 14)

[C.1]

is a picturesque place, consisting of some thatched cottages under large trees by the roadside, and on S. of road the white-gabled rectory and the church. This has a Dec. nave with N. aisle, a Perp. central tower, and a chancel, which is dated 1708 and is a good example of its kind. On entering church, note holy water stoup by S. door. The chancel has good wrought-iron gates and there is a contemporary pulpit. The rood loft is by J. N. Comper (1907). Note a curious monument on wall of N. aisle, to Anthony Cave, erected by his widow in 1576. On the sarcophagus lies a skeleton under a canopy. Singularly enough, the same subject is depicted on a brass, a monument to one of the Caves (c. 1560), which adjoins it. At the E. end of the N. aisle is a handsome monument to Sir Anthony Chester and his wife (1635) with kneeling effigies. There are two well-preserved brasses on the floor, in same part of the church, to Anthony Cave and his wife (1558), though a figure in armour suitable to a much earlier time has been used for this memorial. Note mass dial on the SE. buttress of tower. Chicheley Hall, built about 1701, is singled out by Lloyd in his *History of English Brickwork* as a fine example for richness of tone and form in that material. It is an exceedingly handsome house with stone dressings and Corinthian pilasters, and is now used as a boys' school.

Chilton (Domesday, Ciltone)

[B.4]

is a place well worth a visit. Nowhere is the aspect of a 17th-cent. village more thoroughly preserved. There are some fine views obtainable, notably to the W. towards Brill and the avenues of Wotton, while to the S. the blue line of the Chilterns breaks the horizon. It lies at the SW. of a ridge (450 ft.), and at the N. side is sheltered by the slopes of a small hollow. In the past it was chiefly identified with the Crokes, who were lords of the manor from about 1529 to 1682. Sir George Croke was a Judge of the King's Bench, during the trying times which preceded the Rebellion, and he had the strength of character to give judgment against the claim of the Crown for ship money.



15 EAST CLAYDON CHURCH



16 CLIVEDEN HOUSE AND THE THAMES

The church, which stands at the N. side of the village—note the picturesque half-timbered cottages near the S. entrance to the churchyard—is a remarkable building. Approached from the S. no tower is to be seen, for it is a low EE. structure, on the N. side of the church. An EE. S. transept and a Perp. porch, with a room above, are the features which at once attract notice. The chancel is EE., while the broad nave, with an oak roof, is Perp. On the E. wall (outside) of the nave a stone effigy of a knight in chain armour has been placed in an upright position, it is only visible from the wall of the churchyard. It must have been removed from the interior of the church and placed in this extraordinary position when the present nave was built. The S. aisle has been elongated by the addition of what may be called the Croke Chapel, which contains an elaborate monument to Sir John Croke, Knt. (1608), and Elizabeth, his wife (1611), with life-size recumbent effigies of himself and his wife and figures of eleven children. The 17th-cent. hour-glass stand is interesting; note also 16th- and 17th-cent. screen between chancel and S. chapel. To the E. of the churchyard is an old brick wall, beyond which is the manor-house of the Crokes rebuilt in 1740. It is a handsome brick house with stone dressings with a contemporary gateway of beautiful wrought ironwork and is an interesting example of an 18th-cent. rebuilding of an earlier house, some parts of which remain. It is now used as an old people's home.

Cholesbury

[C.5]

is a scattered village on the N. end of a high common (620 ft.) on the uplands between the summit of the Chilterns and Chesham. The church, rebuilt 1872–3 of the old materials, is an interesting little building with bellcot, nave, and chancel. It is mainly Dec., but the chief feature of interest is the E.E. S. porch. To the N. of the church is a well-preserved plateau camp grown over but not hidden by trees. It now commences close to the vicarage, and returns in a semicircle to a point SE. of the church, the site of which it once enclosed. It consists of a ditch and rampart. It covers 15 acres and was excavated by Day Kimball in 1932.

Cippenham

[D.7]

to the S. of, and in the parish of Burnham, was a hamlet, now merged into the horrible 'bungaloid' growth that stretches for miles along the Bath Road to the W. of Slough. There are now no traces of the Royal Palace occupied by the Mercian kings and the early Norman monarchs, or of the chapel granted by Henry III to the Abbess of Burnham,

unless it be in the remains of earthworks and moat connected with Cippenham Place.

Claydons, The (Pl. 15)

[B.3]

It is convenient to regard the small parishes of Steeple, Middle, and East Claydon and the hamlet of Botolph Claydon as a single community, for they are close together and are characterized by the same natural features. Each, too, is associated with the family of the Verneys. Claydon House itself stands within a stone's throw of Middle Claydon Church.

Steeple or Steeple Claydon is the northernmost of the three parishes. The village, the largest of the three, stands on an elevation, whence wide and pleasant views are obtained of Brill Hill and Ashendon to the W.; the Chilterns to the S., over well-wooded pastures. The church is one of the few in the county with a spire. It has been much restored, and parts are modern; it presents no feature of interest. The E. window is Dec. The beautiful situation of this building is its attraction. To the N. of the church is an old stone barn with an inscription telling that the Parliamentary army, under the command of Cromwell, was encamped here in March 1644.

Botolph Claydon, as already stated, is only a hamlet, though a large one, and lies to the SW. of East Claydon on the road to Claydon House and Middle Claydon. At the E. end is Botolph House, an old brick-and-stone manor-house, shaded by an old cedar.

East Claydon is a delightful village on high ground overlooking the country to the E. and S., characterized by the same black-and-white cottages, many having a 17th-cent. date, under shady elms, as its neighbour Botolph Claydon. At the E. side of the village, almost immediately opposite the church, is the Manor House farm, called the White House, with its long white walls and porch hidden in creepers. Here in 1658 lived Mr. Abel, the sheriff of the county, and here Edmund Verney, the eldest son of Sir Ralph and his wife Mary, the daughter of Mr. Abel, lived from their marriage in 1662; and it has hardly been touched since that time. The church, which is reached by a short lane near the signpost which points to Winslow, is sufficiently isolated to give one a sense of tranquillity—with the outstretching country to the S., which is only broken by the low line of the Chilterns—but it has not much except its delightful position to recommend it to the stranger. But this is sufficient. Architecturally it is without special individuality, and

has been a good deal rebuilt. The S. chapel is 13th cent., the chancel and chancel arch 14th, and the rest 15th and 16th cents. or modern.

Middle Claydon lies midway between Steeple and East Claydon, being rather a parish than a village, and having its centre in the church and in Claydon House, which stand side by side—the church a little to the S. of the house, which was the manor-house of Claydon, and dates back for many centuries. An old drawing depicts the N. front of Claydon House in the 17th cent. with two wings and a recessed centre. The house as it stands consists of two distinct parts—the old manor-house of the *Memoirs* (see below) and the 18th-cent. wing, which formed part of an ambitious rebuilding scheme begun by the second Earl soon after 1760 and continued by him until his bankruptcy in 1784. The existing 18th-cent. block represents only the S. wing, for the corresponding N. wing containing the great ballroom and central rotunda was demolished by the Baroness Fermanagh. Lord Verney's architect was Sir Thomas Robertson of Rokeby and his lavish ideas led to the Earl's financial downfall, when anxious creditors swarmed over the house, removing mantelpieces, doors, and any other movable 'asset'. Much of the plaster and other decoration was by James Rose and Bernasconi; the 'Chinoiserie' and Gothic décor by Patroli. The fine saloon, the unique Chinese room, and the staircase, with its beautiful wrought-iron banisters, among other portions still remain. This house contains some beautiful Adam cornices and chimney-pieces, and the best collection of portraits in the county. Perhaps the finest is that of Sir Francis Verney by an unknown Spanish artist, though the portraits by Van Dyck of Charles I, of Sir Edmund Verney and Dame Mary Verney are beautiful pictures. The history of the Verney family has thrown no little light on the society of the several ages in which they lived, and it has been told in the important *Memoirs of the Verney Family during the Civil War* (1892), and in the two later volumes. The Verneys were originally of Fleet Marston—John de Verney having married in 1229 Alice, co-heiress of Geoffrey Bellow of Fleet Marston. Sir Ralph Verney, Lord Mayor of London, sheriff in 1456, had been knighted by Edward IV, with eleven other citizens, soon after the battle of Tewkesbury. To him were granted several forfeited properties in Bucks., and he purchased the manor and advowson of Middle Claydon, though he presently let the property on a long lease to the Giffards. He died in 1478 in London. Passing over several generations

we come to Sir Francis, who became an Algerine pirate, and died in Sicily; and to Sir Edmund, who took over the remainder of the Claydon lease, and returned there in 1620. He married Margaret Denton of Hillesden. A faithful if a reluctant adherent of Charles I, he lost his life for him at Edgehill in 1642. Then came Sir Ralph, the judicious Parliamentarian, who died in 1696. His son, Sir John, was created Baron Verney, Viscount Fermanagh. The second Earl Verney, who died in 1791, was succeeded by his niece, who was created Baroness Fermanagh, and through her half-sister Claydon descended by will to Sir Harry Calvert, who subsequently assumed the name of Verney.

Middle Claydon church stands on the S. side of the house. It can be reached by either of the entrances of the park—on N. side from the road to Claydon Station or Verney Junction, on S. a road from East Claydon and Winslow Road Station. It is a small church, with nave and chancel, the latter in the Perp. style, begun in 1509 and finished in 1519. Over the N. doorway of the chancel is an inscription stating that Roger Giffard and Mary his wife built it at this date. There is an early 17th-cent. pulpit.

The monuments and brasses which it contains give it much interest. The oldest monument is an exquisite altar tomb in the chancel with an effigy in alabaster of a lady richly habited, Margaret Giffard, with the date 1539. On the N. wall of chancel is a characteristic Jacobean monument, to Urian and Lettice Verney (1608), a man and wife kneeling at either side of a desk. On the S. wall is an immense monument, which Sir Ralph Verney erected in 1652, to the memory not only of his father and mother, but also to his wife and himself. The main features of this monument are the fine busts in niches surmounted by the usual cherubs, skulls, Faith and Hope, vases, etc. The brasses are important and well preserved. This monument was formerly considered to be of Italian workmanship, but in the opinion of Mrs. Esdaile is by Joshua Marshall of London. On the N. wall of chancel is the fine monument to Roger Giffard, builder of the chancel, and Mary (Mansicles), his wife, of the date 1542—a knight in armour and his wife in coif and wimple. This is one of the largest brasses in the county, the figure of Roger Giffard being 5 ft. in height. Below the principal figures are effigies of no less than twenty children. Another brass of an ecclesiastic represents the last Roman Catholic chantry priest, another Giffard (1526). From his mouth issues a scroll, and below an inscription which has been

regarded as puzzling: 'Orate pro anima Domini Alexandri Anne presbateri.' There is also a third brass of Isabel Giffard (1523); a modern brass or medallion of the late Sir Harry Verney (d. 1894), and another, with an embossed border, to Susan Merry, executed by Mr. and Mrs. Dawson of the Artisans Guild. Both are on N. wall of nave, and are interesting pieces of modern work, the more so as they can be compared with work of mediaeval artists.

Clifton Reynes (Domesday, Cliston and Clistone) (Pl. 18) [C. 1]
The village and parish obtained the second name from the family of Reynes. It is a small village on the S. side of the Ouse, which can only be reached from Olney by way of Emberton, or by a footpath across the meadows starting from near Olney Church, or by a ford at Lavendon Mill. The small church, however, is very interesting. It is a short building, with nave, aisles, and chancel, a small N. chapel, tower (12th cent.), and S. porch. The nave is curiously high, with Dec. battlements. It has lancet arches, indicative of the transition from EE. to Dec., but the windows are both Dec. and Perp. The font, of late 14th-cent. work, is noteworthy, with figures, much worn, in panels round the upper part. These are St. Catherine, St. Michael, St. Paul, The Trinity, St. Peter, St. Barbara, St. Margaret, and the Virgin and Child. This church contains some remarkable monuments. The earliest of these is within a canopied recess in the N. wall of the N. aisle, and consists of two recumbent effigies, male and female, carved in oak, and resting on a modern slab supported by brackets. The monument has neither date nor inscription, but has been supposed to represent Simon de Borard, who died about 1260, and who owned the Manor of Clifton in the 13th cent., and Margaret, his wife, but this is unlikely as the date of the effigies cannot be earlier than c. 1300–10. Under the lower arch between the chancel and aisle are two more effigies, carved in oak, but of a later date, c. 1320–30. The monument has no inscription or date, but from the armorial bearings it has been assigned to Ralph de Reynes, lord of the manor, and his wife, Amabel. Wooden effigies are rare, and these are the only examples in this county. The heraldic shields carved on the base of this monument include the arms of Arches, Chamberlain, Chamberlain impaling Reynes, Ekeny, ? Drayton, Paynell, Greene, Tyringham impaling Reynes, and Zouche. Under E. arch is another monument with two recumbent effigies carved in white stone. It bears no date or inscription, but was probably erected, c. 1375, to Sir John Reynes and his

first wife, Catherine. On the floor of the Reynes Chapel is the brass effigy of Sir John Reynes (1428), also effigies of a man and his wife in shrouds—inscription lost, but thought to be a memorial to John Reynes and his second wife, Agnes.

Cliveden (Pl. 16)

[C.6]

(the name is a corruption of Clifden) became National Trust property in 1942, but the house continues to be occupied by the Astor family. The grounds are open to the public on Wednesdays between 11.0 and 6.30 at a charge of 1s. The large white house on the high land immediately above the Thames, where it bends below Cookham Lock to the W., the picturesque grounds along the brink of the Thames, and the beautiful hanging woods, are known to everyone who has passed any time on this river. The first house, a huge pile, was built by George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham. It subsequently belonged to the first Earl of Orkney, and later to Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III. Afterwards it became the property of the Duke of Sutherland, and by the marriage of the first Duke of Westmorland with Lady Constance Leveson-Gower it passed into the possession of the Grosvenor family. It was burnt down in 1795, rebuilt in 1830, again burnt down and rebuilt by the Duke of Buckingham in 1849 from the designs of Sir Charles Barry, and is one of the masterpieces of that great architect. It was at Cliveden that 'Rule, Britannia' was first heard, when *The Masque of Alfred*, into which it was introduced, was performed here in 1740. The author was James Thomson and the composer Dr. Arne.

Cold Brayfield

[C.1]

is a small parish without a village. The church and an adjoining farm stand to the N. of Brayfield House, the park of which slopes down to the Ouse. It is a small and poor but early church with chancel, nave, and W. tower. The N. porch is EE., and is the best feature of the building.

Coleshill

[D.5]

was formerly an isolated portion of Hertfordshire, several miles from the rest of the county. It is now rather a bleak village, with a common and a small modern church. Here, at the manor-house, was born Edmund Waller the poet (1605) (see also Beaconsfield). This 16th-cent. house, now called Stocks Place, is in the centre of the village opposite the schools. Near it is Waller's oak. Tradition has it that in a hollow of this old tree the poet used to sit and write verses, but this fiction probably grew from this fine tree being called Waller's oak through its proximity to his birthplace.

Colnbrook

[D.7]

partly in Middlesex and once a municipal borough, is now a large, uninteresting village on either side of the old Bath Road, but has been by-passed. On S. side are a few old houses, the Ostrich Inn especially should be noted; the rest sadly mutilated by housing clearance. The church is modern.

Cowley

[A.3]

Hamlet of Preston Bissett parish.

Crafton

[C.3]

Hamlet of Wing parish, with chapel.

Crawley, North

[D.1]

is a considerable village on the eastern borders of the county. The church is an important building with nave, aisles, chancel, and W. tower. Below the E. window is a carved inscription recording the rebuilding of the chancel in the 13th cent. The pillars of the nave are quatrefoil and octagonal, and some have slightly foliated capitals, and show traces of colour. The fine roof, Perp., is panelled, with moulded ribs and rich bosses, but the interest of the church centres in the rood screen, which is probably late 15th-cent. work. The upper part is open screen work, and the lower contains sixteen panels, on each of which is a figure either of a saint or prophet. Reading from N. to S. are Jeremiah, David, Isaiah, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, St. Blaise, St. Martin, St. Edward, St. Edmund, Zephaniah, Joel, Micah, Malachi, Daniel, and Ezekiel. An interesting brass on the S. wall of chancel to Dr. John Garbrand, 1589, depicts him in an attitude of prayer. He was the son of a Dutch bookseller in Oxford, by name Herks, but was educated at Winchester and New College, and attained some importance as a theological scholar and preacher.

To the NE. of the village is the Grange, a fine Tudor House, at one time the residence of Cardinal Wolsey, and visited by Queen Elizabeth in one of her royal progresses. The old moated manor-house (17th cent.) stands about 1 m. to E. of church, and the timber-framed Moat Farm (16th cent.) is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. nearer.

Crendon, see Long Crendon

[B.4]

Creslow (1m. NE. of Whitchurch) (Pl. 20)

[C.3]

consists of an ancient manor-house lying off the road from Aylesbury to Winslow; below it immense pastures slope to Creslow Brook—often too well known to hunting men—the largest, Creslow Great Ground, is 300 acres. For centuries they were the feeding ground of cattle for the royal kitchen, as is recited in 1596 by Queen Elizabeth's letters

patent granting to one Mayne the post of keeper and herd for twenty years. In 1673 they were conveyed absolutely to Thomas, Lord Clifford. About 1800 they were held as tenant by a farmer named Westcar. A quaint agricultural monument can be seen to him in the church; he gained many prizes for his cattle. These great fields have since continued to be important feeding pastures, but during the war of 1939-45, they were split up by fences and occupied by a radio station.

Creslow was at one time a parish, but its history is obscure. At the time of the Dissolution of the monasteries the manor belonged to the Knights Hospitallers. The manor-house, built *c.* 1330, with 16th- and 17th-cent. additions, now a farm-house, is an interesting example of mediaeval domestic architecture—note a square tower, with octagonal stair turret at S. end, some mullioned windows, and a crypt with a groined roof, now a cellar, having magnificently carved bosses. Adjoining are some relics of the chapel, with reset 12th-cent. doorway and 14th-cent. windows, now blocked.

Cryers Hill

[C.5]

Hamlet with Methodist chapel and modern development in Hughenden parish.

Cublington

[C.3]

is a secluded little village, standing high among the pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury, with a small early 15th-cent. church. The nave is wholly of this date, the other parts have been slightly restored. Note a plain oak chest in vestry, late 12th- or early 13th-cent. work.

Cuddington (Pl. 19)

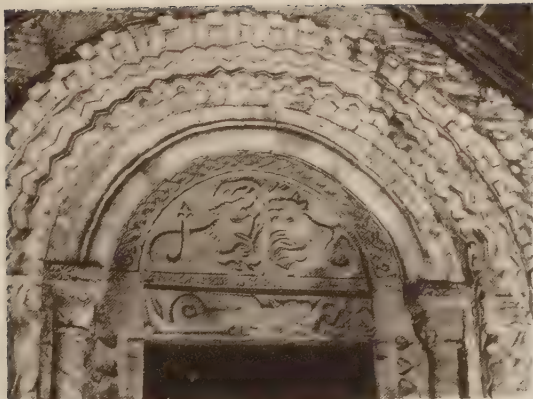
[B.4]

is a charming village in the valley of the Thame in the W. of the county. The church, at N. side of the village, has a chancel and nave, with aisles, S. chapel and tower with stair turret at NE corner.

The church is of great interest, since the 12th-cent. building was enlarged and altered four times during the 13th cent. The order of the work was as follows: *c.* 1220, chancel rebuilt and a N. transept added to nave; *c.* 1230, S. aisle with arcade of two bays; *c.* 1260, N. aisle with arcade of three bays added to existing work; 1290, S. chapel; 1330, N. aisle widened; 15th cent., W. tower; 16th cent., N. aisle shortened. The font is late Norm. Note the S. doorway, *c.* 1260. On the N. side of the church is an interesting old house with the date on a doorway, 1609.

Cymbeline's Mount, or Kimble Castle

are the popular names for the extreme point (530 ft.) of the



17 DINTON CHURCH: THE TWELFTH-CENTURY SOUTH
DOORWAY TYMPANUM



18 CLIFTON REYNES CHURCH: THE NORTH SIDE OF THE
CHANCEL

The oak effigies are believed to be Ralph de Reynes and his wife Amabel
(c. 1310), the others Sir John Reynes and wife Catherine (c. 1375)

castellated building, was erected from designs by William Atkinson, a pupil of James Wyatt. The house is still moated, and was built by Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch, to whom the estate had descended through Anne, only daughter of Sir R. Winwood, who married Lord Montagu, and whose son became owner of Ditton on the death of his uncle. NE. of the house is a chapel, with a nave, chancel, and S. porch; on the E. wall is the date 1617, and on the W. wall that of 1817.

Dean, North

[C.5]

Area of scattered houses in high, wooded, and rolling country, Hughenden parish.

Denham (Pl. 21)

[D.6]

is a delightful old-world village with a single street of picturesque houses; large elm trees, pleasant meadows, and little streams, among which it lies—characteristic of the valley of the Colne—add to the charm of the place. The 14th-cent. church, of flint, is agreeably placed among overhanging trees at the SE. end of the village. Internally it has considerable merit in its proportions. It consists of a 14th-cent. chancel, very spacious and with good detail in the E. window; and a nave with aisles, 15th cent., and W. tower. There should be noted a 16th-cent. monument to Sir E. Peckham and his wife, on the N. side of the altar—the recumbent figures lie side by side, the feet have been carefully restored with old fragments. At the entrance of the chancel N. is a brass to Dame Agnes Jordan, last Abbess of Sion (1544), one of the two extant brasses in England to an abbess; the other is at Elstow, Beds. On the opposite side is a well-preserved brass of an ecclesiastic, Robert Thornhill, 'parson of Denham' (1612). There are also brasses to Walter Duredent and his two wives (1494), and of three boys and a girl. A palimpsest brass now affixed to a movable frame was originally a monument to a friar, but on this design has been engraved the effigy of Amphillis Peckham (1445). It shows the ingenuity with which the later artist has adapted the outlines of the first to those of the second figure. An incised stone slab, with a figure of a man in a gown, Philip Edelen (1656), in the S. wall of the chancel, is an example of a rare kind of work, probably an attempt of a brass worker to adapt his art to a different material. A painting over the S. door of the Doom, or Last Judgment, with Christ in Majesty, the Archangel blowing the last trump, and the resurrection of the dead, from the sea and from graves, should not be overlooked. It is of about 1460, and was

cleaned and preserved by Mr. E. Clive Rouse in 1933. The octagonal font is EE.

Hill House, in the village, is a small but good example of a late 17th-cent. residence in brick with Dutch gables, and is outstanding among many pleasant frontages. The parish as a whole is remarkable for the number of interesting houses of varying dates which it contains, of which the best only can be mentioned. The fine avenue of limes close to the church leads to Denham Court, now used by the Middlesex County Council as an Approved School. Memories of Dryden still linger about this house, for he often visited Sir W. Bowyer, who was then the owner, and he called the garden 'one of the most delicious in England'. The house is supposed to have been one of the places of concealment of Charles II after the battle of Worcester, when Lady Bowyer, daughter of Lord Cranbourne, son of the Earl of Shrewsbury, hid the King. Four panel paintings (one now lost) in the older part of the house are supposed to commemorate this event. One shows the King dressed as a scullion in the kitchen, another depicted him hiding in the rushes of the moat; a third, the large turkey which was hung over the panel, behind which the King was concealed, in order to put the bloodhounds off the scent; the fourth was a portrait of Lady Bowyer.

The high walls at the W. end of the village enclose the gardens of Denham Place, built late in the 17th cent. on the site of an earlier house, but it can be well seen from the road to Rickmansworth. It was once the home of the Peckhams and is a striking example of the domestic architecture of its age. It contains some good plaster ceilings and tapestries. Some fine woodwork of late 15th or early 16th cent. in the chapel was brought from Somerset by the Hills.

To the N. of the railway is the Savoy, a house of exceptional interest. It retains evidence of a late 14th-cent. timber house with a great hall and aisles. The later additions, of the 15th, 16th, and 17th cents., fireplaces, panelling, staircases, etc., are all of interest, and the mural paintings, dated 1606, are noteworthy. Southlands Farm, 3½ m. SSW. of the church, is an interesting house of the 16th cent., and with its barns, moat, and fishpond, forms a pleasant group. A great deal of modern building development has taken place around Denham and there is a large and famous film studio here.

Denham, hamlet of Quainton

[B.3]

The mansion of the ancient lords of Quainton and the Winwoods stood here; fragments only remain. (See under Quainton.)

Dinton (Pl. 17)

[B.4]

lies to S. of the main road from Aylesbury to Thame; it is reached through a picturesque avenue of chestnuts. It is a charming village shaded by elms, through which the distant Chilterns can be seen to the S. across the meadows. The church adjoins the gabled manor-house (16th cent.), which touches the graveyard on the W. The church, as a building, shows important signs of each of the periods of English mediaeval architecture. The S. doorway is the most remarkable piece of Norm. work in the county. It has three orders, billet, zigzag and guilloche, and a tympanum showing grotesque monsters eating the fruit off a tree. Below, on the main face is an inscription in large capital letters, bearing two rhymed hexameters in Latin:

PREMIA PRO MÉRITIS SI QUIS DESP'ET HABENDA
AUDIAT HIC PRE'EPTA SIBI QUESIT RETINENDA
(He who despairs of guerdon for his pain;
should listen here what precepts to retain.)

On the lintel is the combat between St. Michael and Satan. An immense dragon with terrible jaws and large extended tongue is advancing from the W. towards a small winged figure in the E. corner, who holds a cross, which he is about to thrust down the throat of the serpent. The chancel is EE., the E. window, with its three lights widely separated, or, more strictly speaking, the three E. windows, being the most remarkable. There is a good early Dec. S. arcade, but no N. aisle; the roof braces rest upon stone pilasters. The brasses, formerly at W. end of S. aisle, have been rearranged and reset. These are to John Compton (1424), his wife, four sons and seven daughters; another is to William Lee (1486). The brass commemorating Francis Lee (1558) in a gown, is a palimpsest and on the reverse is a fine fragment of a Flemish brass (c. 1370). Other palimpsests are those to Thomas Greneway (1538) in armour, with his wife (headless) and Richard Greneway (1551) and his wife Joan. On the reverses of the Greneway brasses are parts of a figure of a priest, c. 1490, as well as portions of a lady's dress (c. 1400), and of a small armed figure (c. 1460). A late brass commemorates Simon Mayne (1617), his wife, and two children. Notice also (1) at W. end, S. aisle, cupboard dated 1612,



21 DENHAM VILLAGE



22 EDLESBOROUGH CHURCH: THE FIFTEENTH-CENTURY STALLS AND SCREEN IN THE CHANCEL.

and a late 16th-cent. chest; (2) Dec. font, fluted and cup-shaped with geometrical ornament round the top, showing influence of the Aylesbury type; (3) very fine Jacobean altar-table, dated 1606; (4) 18th-cent. altar-rails in S. aisle. Outside note very good W. doorway (EE.) to tower and turret at SE. angle, mass-dial on S. side, and in the church-yard an old cross.

The Manor House, Dinton Hall, adjoining the church, has an impressive row of gables and chimneys and is mainly of the 16th cent. with later additions.

To NE. of the village, on the Aylesbury road, is a ruin called the Castle; it consisted of a tower and two side-towers built in 1769, and was erected by Sir John Vanhatten of Dinton Hall as an 'eye-catcher'.

In the 17th cent. Dinton belonged to the Mayne family, one of whom, Simon, was one of the regicides; he died in the Tower, but his body is buried in Dinton Church. Members of this family held the manor and resided at the Hall, till 1727, when it was sold to John Vanhatten.

Ditton Park, see Datchet.

[D.7]

Doddershall

[B.3]

is a hamlet of Quainton, but is remarkable for its fine old manor-house, portions of which probably date from the 14th cent., but the S. front was built in 1689, and alterations were made about 1790. The hall, the library, and the 'brown hall' contain much old oak carving of the 15th, 16th, and 17th cents. The estate came into the possession of Mr. Sergeant Pigott in 1503 and still remains in his family. *Papers from an Iron Chest*, by G. Eland, refer to the history and muniments of this house and family.

Dorney

[C.7]

is a village in the Thames Valley. The church, which has a brick tower, erected c. 1530, contains evidence of many architectural periods and has some interesting fittings. Note (1) fine 12th-cent. font, (2) W. gallery dated 1634; (3) 15th-cent. woodwork of stalls and base of screen; (4) two low-side windows, also early Norm. windows, partly blocked, in chancel; (5) remains of a painting of the Annunciation on the N. wall of chancel; (6) 17th-cent. altar-rails; (7) handsome wall monument to Jane Palmer, 1663; (8) a fine Jacobean monument to Sir W. Gerrard (1607), the central part of which consists of two nearly life-sized effigies. There are also the figures of seven sons and eight daughters; those holding skulls predeceased their parents. The brick porch is dated 1663.

Dorney Court, E. of the church, is a particularly fine example of early 16th-cent. architecture in timber framing with brick filling. The great hall, with screens and dais, is remarkable. The Palmer family has resided here since 1600.

Dorton

[A.4]

is very suggestive of the past. The manor-house, a large white house, interesting as an example of Jacobean domestic architecture, was built about 1626 and partly altered in 1784. It contains fine 17th-cent. plaster-work and screens, and is now used as a school for teaching the blind. At the end of the lawn, quite shaded by closely surrounding trees, is the small church. House and church are grouped near a farm at W. end of the little village. Thus we get a kind of view of an old rural community. The church is reached by a path on left from the footway from the village, which continues through the fields and makes a pleasant walk up the hill-side to Brill. The church has no architectural interest, but, with its dovecot-like W. tower (1630), porch, and S. aisle, and the weather-beaten roof, lingers in the memory longer than many more important buildings.

In a damp and a somewhat forbidding wood behind the great house at the foot of Brill Hill is a spring with supposedly medicinal qualities. In the early 19th cent. some attempt was made to found a spa here and in the prospectus it is stated that accommodation and facilities were obtainable at the neighbouring town of Brill. Some buildings were erected 'to the elegant designs of Mr. Hakewill', of which prints are extant, but to-day not one stone remains upon another and the whole place has a damp, forlorn, and somewhat eerie atmosphere.

Downley

[C.5]

An area of West Wycombe parish with much recent development. There are a few older houses round an open common. The large new brick church is still incomplete.

Drayton Beauchamp (Domesday, Draitone)

[C.4]

is quite a small village at the junction of some spurs of the Chilterns with the Vale of Aylesbury. The church stands a little to the SE. of the village. The main parts of the building are Dec., but the windows have been replaced at a later period and are Perp. The E. window with a square head having five cinquefoil lights, is filled with interesting 15th-cent. glass. This is a Creed window depicting ten of the twelve apostles in the compartments, SS. Luke and Barnabas omitted. The figures have all been a good deal restored with modern glass. Note (1) a Norm. font in nave; (2) an immense

monument on N. wall of chancel to William Lord Cheyne, Viscount Newhaven (d. 1728), representing a man in civil dress and a lady—a fine work by William Woodman, a sculptor whose work is not often encountered; (3) two large and important brasses within the communion rails to (a) Thos. Cheyne, Esq., shield-bearer to Edward III (1368); (b) William Cheyne (1375), both in armour; (c) in the chancel floor the effigy of a headless priest, Hen. Fazakerley (1531).

Drayton Beauchamp has a further interest from the fact that in 1584-5 Hooker (1553-1600) was rector here. His residence was so short that he can scarcely be associated markedly with the place, but his stay has been emphasized by the description given in Walton's *Life* of a visit paid to him by his pupils, George Cranmer and Edwin Sandys, son of the Archbishop of York, who found the future author of *Ecclesiastical Polity* (1584) herding sheep in the fields near the rectory, not after all so unusual or disagreeable an occupation for a country clergyman in the 16th cent., and not different to the horticultural occupations of the parsons of our own time. The result of this visit was the transfer of Hooker to the Mastership of the Temple.

It was from the Beauchamps, who held part of the manor of Drayton in the 13th cent., that we get the double name Drayton Beauchamp, although that family was only in possession for five generations.

Drayton Parslow

[C.3]

which takes its second name from the family of Passelaw, who were lords of the manor for several generations from the time of Henry I, is a modern village of red-brick cottages, hardly any old buildings being left, which has grown up round the church. The S. porch is EE., and there is a Perp. E. window, the rest of the church, W. tower and windows, is Dec. Note fragments of old glass in the windows. The font, later Dec., is interesting and has a succession of recesses with crocket and finials, with heraldic shields and the very unusual feature of an embattled rim to the bowl. Near the font is a slab in which have once been the effigies in brass of a man and woman—there still remain below these vacant spaces two groups—three sons and eleven daughters, much worn, however, and the date 1535 and the name of the family of Blackenoll.

In a recess behind the pulpit is an extremely fine Nottingham alabaster table (15th cent.) of the Crucifixion. In the churchyard are the fragments of an old cross.

Dropmore

[C.6]

estate lies midway between Beaconsfield and Taplow. The grounds, which are strictly private, contain some magnificent specimens of conifers. They were planted by William Wyndham, Lord Grenville (1759-1834), after he purchased the property in 1792, which was then little better than waste land. It now contains some of the finest coniferous trees in England, and in early summer is gorgeous with the brilliant flowers of rhododendrons and azaleas. Among the most remarkable trees is the cedar of Lebanon on the lawn planted in 1794. The planting was done by Frost, the head gardener, who, years after, would point out to visitors splendid trees which, as he gravely said, he had carried in his waistcoat pocket, and would tell of visits by George III. Dropmore can never be dissociated from its first owner, Lord Grenville, who was Pitt's Foreign Secretary from 1791 to 1801, and the head of the short-lived Ministry known as 'All the Talents', containing as it did both Fox and Addington, which he formed on the death of Pitt in 1806. Dropmore was Lord Grenville's home for many years, and he died here in 1834. The church, on Littleworth Common, dates from 1866, and was the work of Butterfield, architect of Keble College, Oxford.

Dundridge

[C.5]

One of a series of ridges (each with its corresponding 'bottom' or chalk combe), in the hinterland of the Chilterns W. and NW. of Chesham. On several are old farms or groups of farm cottages; and on some are hamlets with modern development. Most now fall in Chartridge parish. The ridges are Chartridge, Asheridge, Hawridge, Hundridge, Dundridge, Bellingdon, Pednor, and Hyde Heath (q.v.).

Dunsmore

[C.5]

Hamlet in Ellesborough parish with Church of the Resurrection, built 1897, largely through Lady Sutton.

Dunton

[C.3]

has no village—the church, parsonage, an old manor-house, and a farm and one or two cottages on a side-road among extensive pastures form the centre of the parish. The church is very small, and gives a good idea of the state of the Bucks. churches a century ago, with high pews and whitewashed ceilings and oak beams disappearing above them. The gallery at the W. end with texts and rectors' names upon it is another feature. A piscina, with a single round moulding, is noticeable in the N. wall. A doorway with zigzag ornament, now blocked up, tells of the antiquity of the church.



23 ETON COLLEGE



24 ETON COLLEGE: SCHOOL YARD



25 BOARSTALL TOWER: THE GATEHOUSE

On the floor of nave near the chancel are two effigies in brass, much worn, the figures of a man and woman with scrolls from their mouths (1420), and under the chancel arch is the effigy of Collys, wife of Richard (1510), with one child. Part of the inscription is lost.

Edgcott

[B.3]

is a small village with thatched cottages sprinkled among damp meadows round a little hill, on the summit of which stands the church, with a fine view over a sea of grass, and with Brill Hill standing up to the W. This church is small, with a nave, chancel, and tower at W. end; it was built in the 14th and 15th cents. Note font, and S. door (Perp.). There are extensive brickworks.

Edlesborough (Domesday, Eddinberge) (Pl. 22)

[D.4]

was at one time a place of more importance than to-day. The easternmost of the villages which fringe the northern verge of the Chilterns from here to Princes Risborough, it lies on a high bare slope. The village itself has nothing of interest except one or two old cottages and farm buildings. The church is a conspicuous object for a long distance. It stands on a high, probably artificial, mound. The W. tower is Dec., and on the W. front is a narrow single light window. The E. window is Dec., as are several of the S. windows, but there are others in the Perp. style. Note especially one of five lights on the N. side. The font is octagonal and on the bowl has four-leaved ornaments in the panels. But the great attraction of Edlesborough Church is the wood carving. The pulpit is unique in the county and of singular beauty; it is 15th-cent. work—minute pinnacles and finials being the most striking features, but on examination various forms of foliage will be seen. The sounding-board has a panelled ceiling, and above rises in a cone shape, completely covered with the same kind of ornament, till it terminates in a single finial. The work is more remarkable because the pulpit and sounding-board are small, and thus the whole work is strikingly delicate, refined, and elaborate. Edlesborough is also fortunate in the possession of a fine Perp. rood screen, together with carved stalls, the whole forming the best example in the county, of the appearance, in this respect, of a mediaeval church. In the floor of N. aisle, near the N. transept, are two brasses in good condition, John Rufford and his three wives (1540). On the N. wall of N. transept the effigies of Henry Brugis and his wife (1592), the man in a fur gown. Note also the important ecclesiastical brass of John Swynstede (1395) and an unusual one in the form of

a rose, to John Killyngworth (1412). Both these have been returned to the church from the chapel of Ashridge House, Herts. On the E. wall are some remarkable corbels—a dragon, etc.

Ellesborough

[C.5]

is a picturesque and delightful place. The church stands conspicuously on one of the northern spurs of the Chilterns, almost in the plain, Cymbeline's Mount overtops it to the S., and then the steep slopes of the Chilterns close this admirable view. The church is of flint, and was restored in 1854, the W. tower in 1870. The fine monument to Bridget (d. 1638), daughter and heiress of William Hawtrey of Chequers Court, and wife of Sir H. Croke, on S. wall, should not be overlooked, and the brass, also on S. wall, to Thomas Hawtrey (1544) and his wife, though it is not certain that the figures are those referred to in the inscription.

The cottages (17th cent.) at a little distance, by the path and the side of the hill, are interesting.

Emberton

[C.1]

is a village of some size on the rising ground S. of the valley of the Ouse, almost opposite Olney, the conspicuous spire of whose church is seen through the trees on the other side of the intervening meadows. In the centre of the village is a square clock tower (1845). The church is on high ground to SW. of the village, with W. tower, nave, aisles, chancel, clerestory, and porches. The depth of the lower windows, which are of earlier date than the upper, is notable also the detail of the external cornice of the chancel with its grotesque heads. The chancel windows of three lights contain some of the best Dec. work in the county, with delicate tracery in the heads of the side windows. Note also a well-preserved brass to John Mordon, rector (1410), with curious inscription.

Eton (Pl. 23, 24)

[D.7]

is a small riverside town consisting of one narrow street which runs from Windsor Bridge at its S. end to the world-famous buildings of Eton College at the N. extremity. The best distant view of these is from the terrace of Windsor Castle. Many visitors, however, when approaching Eton from London, have to pass through the dreary surroundings of Slough first. A short mile of open country after Slough is left behind brings the College into sight, and a very picturesque view of the soft reds and greys of the old buildings is gained from the second bridge crossed, which is known as 'Fifteen Arch Bridge'. This spans the brook known to Etonians as 'The Jordan', and beyond it the road runs

between the historic 'wall' (S.)—on the other side of which the annual struggle between the Collegers and Oppidans in the most primitive of all football games takes place—and the 'Field' (N.) with its background of Fives Courts. A few old red-brick houses on the left, one labelled 'Weston's' to commemorate where Bishop Weston lived as 'Usher' and Fellow from 1693 to 1709, the 'New Schools' (1863) on the right (N.), and we are in the heart of Eton. Every building within sight is occupied by the College; and a few paces to the left bring us through the arch into the 'Schoolyard', where, on the right hand, stands the chapel. During the war of 1939-45, serious damage was inflicted in the course of an air raid on both Weston's and also the NW. corner of Schoolyard.

Only a sketch of the history of this most famous school can be attempted here. Built within touch of his favourite castle of Windsor by the pious King, Henry VI, as 'the first pledge of his devotion to God', on the lines of Wykeham's College at Winchester, and, like its model, closely bound to a College at the University, 'The King's College of our Lady of Eton beside Windsor', as it is styled in the Royal Charter of Foundation (1440), has come, in spite of early attempts at suppression, to hold the foremost position among public schools. As originally planned, the royal College embraced a seminary for secular priests, and, as adjuncts to this, a school for boys and an almshouse (like that at the Charterhouse) for paupers; but the school soon usurped the name and revenues of the older triple institution. Much ecclesiastical circumstance was thrown round the twin Colleges at Eton and Cambridge by three Papal Bulls, which the King obtained from Eugenius IV, conferring special privileges on Eton Church. Seventy poor scholars formed the nucleus of the school, six of whom were brought from Winchester by Waynflete, Master of Winchester and afterwards Provost of Eton. The 'King's Scholars' still number seventy; but about them there now cluster some thousand 'Oppidans', for a small number of whom the Founder made provision.

For many years after the laying of the first stone of the new 'chapel', early in 1441, the dismantled old parish church of Eton nestled under the buttresses of its stately successor, and the old churchyard in which it stood—part of the present 'Schoolyard'—was used for burials even in the 16th cent. The 'chapel', in fact, continued to be the parish church until late in the 19th cent. In 1500 the College buildings consisted of the 'chapel' and hall, the old kitchen, and the

greater part of the N. and E. sides of the cloisters; the Collegers being probably housed and taught on the S. side of the present 'Schoolyard'. The Oppidans, if there were any, lodged in the town; and two instructors, a 'Master', and 'Usher', controlled the education. Additions were soon made to the buildings. The present 'Long Chamber', which used to run the whole length of the N. side of the 'Schoolyard', and at one time provided sleeping accommodation for all the Collegers and the 'Lower School' beneath it, was erected in 1500-5. Twelve years later the E. side of the 'Schoolyard', containing a room intended for a library and the present Provost's Lodge, was completed; but the tower did not assume its present picturesque appearance till 1765, when the clock was moved from one of the chapel buttresses to its present position and the bell turret added.

For nearly two centuries building remained at a standstill, though the school was growing in numbers. The turmoil of the Civil Wars had little effect on the College, owing to the scrupulous fidelity of the Fellows to whichever party was in power. They contributed ship money to Charles I with the same zeal with which they saw John Rous, the Provost, made Speaker in 1653, and finally elected to the Upper House. When the shock of the Restoration, which tumbled the Provost, the schoolmaster, and most of the Fellows from their seats, had subsided, the increasing numbers of the Oppidans rendered additional accommodation necessary.

The W. side of the 'Schoolyard' which, before the memorable year in which the boys were flogged for not smoking to keep off the plague and Pepys enjoyed the Eton beer, had stood open to the main road, was, about 1670, completed by the ill-featured loyalist, Provost Allestree. This building, however, was faultily built, and was demolished a few years later to make room for the present erection (1694), which consists of two or three small rooms fronted by a colonnade, and on the higher floor the long 'Upper School'. Some provision was thus made for the 200 boys which the school then numbered.

In this condition, with the exception of the unfortunate demolition in 1730 of the S. cloisters to make room for a new library, and the important addition of an attic storey to the N. and E. sides of the cloisters thirty years later, the College buildings remained until the middle of the 19th cent. The numbers of the school rose rapidly during the 18th cent., and Eton could boast the education of so distinguished a

group of statesmen as Godolphin, Robert Walpole, Newcastle, Grenville, North, Fox, and Chatham, and among men of distinction in other fields, of Horace Walpole and George Selwyn, Fielding, Gray, and Porson, with warriors such as Howe, Wellesley, and Wellington—a microcosm of all the brilliance of the century in which the empire was being built. Not only were the masters as a body little capable of inspiring enthusiasm for classics or character, but their numbers were ridiculously meagre; and the sports with which the boys filled their spare time were often degrading. The condition of 'Long Chamber' was scandalous; and the schoolrooms, which were sufficient for the 200 boys of 1680, were not thought too few or too confined for the 800 of Hawtrey's time (1844). Yet some of Eton's not least distinguished sons were educated under the mild rule of Goodall and the wholesome discipline of Keate in the first half of last century. Shelley was, as might be expected, unhappy at Eton; but Gladstone never lost his love for his 'glorious school'. The memory of Keate, that great headmaster without a mention of whom no sketch of Eton can have any pretence to completeness, is still green. Anecdotes of his grotesque figure and ferocious temper are legion; but the classical portrait of him occurs in his pupil's *Eothen*.

The period of reform began with Dr. Hawtrey in 1834. The 'New Buildings', containing extra rooms for the collegers, were built in 1846; the 'New Schools', with their Russian gun, by 1863; and large additions have been made more recently, such as the 'Lower Chapel' and the 'Queen's Schools' in Keate's Lane, the turning opposite the chapel.

Much of the history of Eton lies written in her buildings, and the chapel is its best epitome. The structure covers every century from the 15th to the 20th. The founder's scheme projected a stately fane as broad as King's Chapel, Cambridge, and some 30 ft. longer—as large, perhaps, as many English cathedrals, and unique in the simple grandeur of its design. But Henry's pious designs were rudely upset by Edward IV's successes, and the church remained half completed (by 1475), a choir without a nave. The 'ante-chapel' was added, 1479–82, as the only possible substitute for the visionary nave, sufficient funds not being forthcoming after the founder's eclipse. The niches behind Provost Goodall's statue are all that remain of the once numerous pre-Reformation altars. The screen was built in 1882, in memory of Etonians who fell in the Zulu, Afghan, and first

Boer wars; the resplendent organ is equally modern. After Waynflete's design the interior of the nave was originally fitted with low, uncanopied stalls, leaving space below the string courses of the windows for mural paintings by one, William Baker, in 1479-80 and 1487-8. These paintings, which represent the legendary miracles of the Virgin, are among the most important of their date in England, and were whitewashed by the College barber in 1561; and at the same time the high altar was destroyed. In 1700 they were panelled over by Provost Godolphin, but were rediscovered in a damaged condition in 1847, and two years later, in spite of the Prince Consort's exertions, they were partly scraped from the walls and reconcealed by canopied stalls. They have now been again, so far as they exist, disclosed to view, and copies, or reconstructions, by Professor E. W. Tristram, of the more damaged subjects have been placed in position. The fine lectern, which dates at least from 1487, and the plain tomb of Sir Henry Saville, Provost, 1596-1622, on the S. wall of the sacrarium are interesting, the latter from its contrast to the elaborate monument of his successor, Thomas Moravius (Murray), which faces it. Lupton's chapel, on the N. side of the chapel, is decorated with the rebus (the letters L U P on a tun) of the Provost (1504-35), in whose honour it was built. On the W. wall of this chapel are the names of Etonians who fell in the South African War. W. of Lupton's chapel is the (restored) memorial chapel to Etonians who fell in the 1914 War, containing the Golden Book; E. window with names of fallen Etonians, and N. window designed by Provost James.

The remaining brass effigies commemorate:

- (1) Thomas Barker, Vice-Provost, 1489, N. of organ screen.
- (2) Henry Bost, Provost, 1503, E. wall of Lupton Chapel
- (3) Richard Arden, Fellow, 1509, N. of organ screen.
- (4) Richard, Lord Grey de Wilton, 1521, S. of organ screen.
- (5) William Bontrod, Minor Canon of Windsor, 1522, S. of organ screen.
- (6) Walter Smith, Fellow, 1525, N. of organ screen.
- (7) Female effigy (probably wife of Henry Smith), 1528, S. of organ screen.
- (8) William Horman, Vice-Provost, 1525, S. of organ screen.
- (9) Roger Lupton, Provost (d. 1540), in floor of Lupton Chapel.

ETON



COLLEGE



- 1 Cloisters
- 2 Provost's Garden
- 3 Weston's Yard
- 4 Brewhouse Yard
- 5 New Schools
- 6 Library
- 7 Keate's Lane
- 8 Poet's Walk
- 9 Sixth Form Bench

S.J.D.

(10) Thomas Edgecomb, Vice-Provost, 1545, N. of organ screen.

(11) Elizabeth, wife of Robert Stokes, 1560 (inscription, a palimpsest), S. of organ screen.

(12) Thomas Allen, Fellow, 1636, S. of organ screen.

For an exhaustive account of existing and lost Eton brasses, see *Oxford Journal of Monumental Brasses*, Vol. II, No. 2, and Vol. II, No. 1, by T. Harwood.

The modern wooden roof presents a variety of styles, and the question of a stone substitute has often been mooted; but expert opinion has decided that the buttresses, massive as they are, would not be capable of standing the additional strain. Here it may be noted that the Eton Fives Court owes its peculiar 'pepper-box' to the accidental contiguity of the end of the stone balustrade at the N. door to the two adjoining buttresses, and that, till 1848, Fives was only played at Eton between the buttresses on the N. side of the chapel.

Along the W. side of the schoolyard runs 'Upper School', the largest and most famous, but not the oldest, of the classrooms. At first sight it seems cold and bare; but the thousands of names carved on its panels during the two centuries of its life clothe it with an undying interest. Until 1863, 'Upper School', and the old 'Library' at its northern end, with two meagre kennels on the ground floor, a still more meagre cock-loft in the NW. tower and the old 'Lower School', were the only classrooms provided for the school, although the numbers had more than doubled in the preceding 170 years. Now 'Upper School' is only used on occasions when the greater part of the school has to be collected in one room, or for 'Speeches' during the Christmas and Easter 'halves' and on the great festival of King George III's birthday, the 4th of June. The old 'Library', now used as a classroom for Sixth Form, and, as the block bears witness, for corporal punishments, is also wainscoted with names, and the solid staircase leading down to the schoolyard carries on the tale.

About half-way along the N. side of the schoolyard there is an opening, 'Fourth-Form Passage', leading to 'Weston's Yard', and within it a door on the left. This door leads to the domain of the lower master, 'Lower School', built in the first years of Henry VIII. The double row of Jacobean pillars which adorn it were set up by Provost Sir Henry Wotton about 1630, to support the floor of 'Long Chamber'. They were hung, according to Isaak Walton, at Wotton's expense with pictures of the most famous orators and



26 FINGEST CHURCH



27 GAYHURST HOUSE

historians of Greece and Italy. Wotton was contemporary as a Fellow with the ever-memorable John Hales, who lies buried in the churchyard under a square sarcophagus sadly worn by time. The staircase on the right of 'Fourth-Form Passage' leads up to 'Long Chamber', now divided into rooms and cubicles or 'stalls'. It was formerly open from end to end, and contained fifty beds, and by the side of each the tall lead-coloured desk which held all the worldly goods of the collegier.

East of the schoolyard, beyond Lupton's Tower, lie the cloisters. The three sides, which contain the Provost's Lodge with its gallery of eminent Etonians, the (Fellows') Library, and the Headmaster's house, are private. The series of 'leaving portraits' which succeeded the curious custom of 'tipping' the Headmaster are a wonderful collection by the leading portrait painters of the day and hang in the Provost's Lodge in Election Hall and Election Chamber. On the S. side stands the Hall (1448-58), one of the earliest of the College buildings, and in the main unaltered since its erection. The fireplaces are part of the original structure, and early 16th-cent. panelling runs round the walls. The mediaeval character of the building is reflected in the Latin grace which is still chanted before meals. Some alterations have been made in modern times, notably the high-pitched roof and Perp. W. window, as well as the screen behind the high table. Downstairs is the old kitchen with its elaborate 18th-cent. spit, where a relic of the ruder habits of earlier days can be seen in one of the two-sided platters formerly used in Hall.

The buildings which stand apart from the schoolyard and cloisters do not claim a long visit, with the exception of the School Hall in 'Cannon Yard'. This was erected in memory of old boys who fell in the war in South Africa. The School Library contains an important collection of early books and manuscripts and the documents relating to the early history of the College are invaluable.

Most visitors will have seen enough of Eton in the chapel and the buildings which surround it. Those, however, who desire to extend their survey can enter the playing fields, and take the walk through them towards Datchet, or in the reverse direction follow Common Lane to the school drill hall (right hand). Keate's Lane diverges into Eton Wick Road on the right, in which are the old Fives Courts (left), and to South Meadow Lane on the left, where in order on the right are laboratory, concert-room, and science school, on the left, 'Lower Chapel', a plain but well-proportioned

structure, built for the 400 lower boys, from Blomfield's designs in 1891, and music-room. The houses of the masters are chiefly grouped round Keate's Lane. From the Prince of Wales Inn on the Slough Road another road runs W. to Salt Hill, near the junction of Montem Lane with the Bath Road. Here, enclosed in a garden on the S. side of the road, is the famous mound. There has been no ceremony upon it, however, since 1844, after which year that royal and time-honoured, but somewhat disorderly, festival was abolished by Provost Hodgson. Originally part of a religious or initiatory rite, the procession had become a gorgeous fancy-dress pageant, and the 'Salt-bearers', who held up travellers on the surrounding turnpikes and claimed money ('Salt') used to collect latterly about £1,000 for the expenses of the Captain of the School at Cambridge.

Eythorpe (Domesday, Edrop)

[B.4]

a hamlet in the parish of Waddesdon, possessed a fine manor-house, the home of the Dynhams, Dormers, and Stanhopes, who successively owned the manor. It was pulled down in 1812, by the then Earl of Chesterfield. To it was attached a chapel, in which the founder, Roger Dynham, was buried after being removed from Waddesdon Church. This chapel was pulled down in 1738, and all traces of Sir Roger Dynham's burying-place were lost until some years ago, when a stone coffin containing his remains was found, and on it a slab with the effigy in brass, which is now in Waddesdon Church. (q.v.). The lane and surroundings are delightful.

Farnham Royal

[D.6]

a former independent village, is now joined to Slough. After the Conquest the manor was given to Bertrand de Verdon on the condition of providing a glove and putting it on the king's right hand at the coronation, and supporting his right arm, while the royal sceptre was in his hand, and from this tenure by Grand Sergeantry, Farnham obviously received the epithet of 'Royal'. The church is at the S. end of the principal street. It has been entirely rebuilt except the chancel (EE.), which is 12th cent. with later insertions. A brass inscription of some interest is on the E. wall of S. aisle; it commemorates Eustace Mascoll, clerk of the works to Cardinal Wolsey (at Christ Church, Oxford) and 'Pistell Reader' in Windsor Castle (d. 1564).

Fawley (Domesday, Falelie)

[B.6]

This village is in the high country amongst the Chiltern beechwoods. The church has been much rebuilt, but the core of the nave is 12th cent. and the W. tower, c. 1280,

with later top stage. The chancel was rebuilt in 1748 and retains only a few of the fittings of that time, which came from Canons, Middlesex. The lectern, pulpit, panelling, and some Grinling Gibbons carving survive. The monument to Sir James and Lady Whitelocke (1632) with recumbent effigies, is a good example of Jacobean sculpture.

Fawley Court on the S. of the parish is close to the Thames. The large red house, a familiar object to those who have been to Henley Regatta, is architecturally important, for it was built on the site of the manor-house in 1684 after Wren's designs. During the Civil War the manor-house was the property of Bulstrode Whitelocke (1605-75), and in 1642 was occupied by Prince Rupert's troops, who did so much damage that the house was never again occupied. It was rebuilt by Bulstrode Whitelocke's son, and sold by him in 1688. The whole parish lies amid lovely scenery.

Fenny Stratford

[C.2]

is an old town on Watling Street, which is joined to Bletchley on the W. The church was rebuilt in 1726 in red brick by Browne Willis, the antiquary, and here he was buried in 1760. His church is now incorporated as a N. aisle to a Victorian building lavishly decorated with vile bizarre patterns in coloured brickwork. The old church has a most interesting roof consisting of a painted wooden ceiling with coats of arms of contributors in panels. In a window on N. side is some heraldic glass dating from the 17th and 18th cents. Preserved upon a shelf over the W. door are some 'poppers' given by Browne Willis. These are small iron hand-guns which were fired upon Martinmas, followed by a supper. At the S. end of the town, Roman remains have been found, indicating the existence of a Romano-British village.

Fingest

[B.6]

is a small village lying, with Turville, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. away, at the head of the Hambleden Valley. It is sheltered by swelling ridges, many of them tree-covered, in one of the most beautiful portions of the Chilterns. The finest feature of the church is the very massive early Norm. tower, so large that it is thought originally to have formed part of the nave. It is 60 ft. high, and is divided into three stages; good double windows on each side of upper stage, the detail in each varying; the lowest stage has an EE. W. window, the details of which are very perfect. A distinctive feature is the double saddle-back roof, probably of 18th-cent. date. The narrow nave is divided from the tower by a fine semicircular arch. In the S. wall are two Dec. windows, one original, one

modern; in the N. wall a small window and archway, blocked, with an EE. doorway on the exterior. The chancel was restored in 1849; the original walls remain. The E. window is late Dec.; in the N. wall are two single-light EE. windows. The chancel arch has unfortunately been replaced by wooden screenwork. The font has an early bowl, but the base is modern. The Bishops of Lincoln held the Manor of Fingest in the 12th cent. The site of their palace lies N. of the churchyard.

Flackwell Heath

[C.6.]

Upland area with many modern villas and a few old cottages and farms, and a golf course partly in Loudwater parish, on outskirts of High Wycombe. The views over the Thames Valley from the high ground are the only redeeming feature.

Fleet Marston

[B.4]

is a parish without a village—a farm-house or two and some cottages with a small church standing alone in a large field on a hill-top. Marston is a common name in Bucks.—and naturally, for it tells us of the marshy ground on which a hamlet was placed. This Marston has a watercourse running by it, indeed several, and so it became Marston of the brook or fleet to distinguish it from the not distant North Marston. The small church dates from the 12th and 13th cents., and has a fine 15th-cent. queenpost roof in the nave. The circular font (probably 13th cent.) is significant of its age, the E. window is a single trefoil light, the chancel has Dec. windows, and the nave Perp. windows.

Ford

[B.4]

Scattered hamlet in low-lying water-meadows in Dinton parish.

Forty Green

[C.6]

Residential suburb with many 'genteel residences' and a few stockbrokerized old farms between Beaconsfield and Penn.

Foscott

[B.2]

is a very small parish and village on the edge of the Ouse valley. The small church is mediaeval, restored. Of the first edifice there still remains the S. doorway, Norm.

The old manor-house was rebuilt in 1639, and restored in 1868. A Roman villa was discovered about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the SE. of the church and a pavement removed from it to the Queen's Temple at Stowe.

Frieth (pronounced 'Freeth')

[B.6]

One of several outlying hamlets in Hambleden parish, with a flint and stone church of 1848, enlarged in 1872. Stands in high, wooded country.

Fulmer

[D.6]

lies nestled in a hollow between Stoke and Gerrard's Cross Commons. The church was rebuilt on a new site in 1610 by Sir Marmaduke Dayrell, to whose memory, and that of Dame Anne, his wife, the fine monument in the chancel was erected in 1631. He was lord of the manor of Fulmer, servant to Queen Elizabeth, and cofferer to King James I and Charles I. The tower, nave, and porch are of brick and original, but the chancel, S. arcade, and aisle are all modern.

Gawcott

[B.3]

is a hamlet with a classic church with a tower erected in 1828, and is only interesting as having been the birthplace of Sir Gilbert Scott (1811-78), the architect. His father was the first perpetual curate of Gawcott, and Scott in his *Recollections* gives some sketches of his native village and its people, which are interesting as pictures of rural life in this county at the beginning of the last century.

Gayhurst (Pl. 27) "

[C.1]

is a parish without a village. Gayhurst House and church are close together, on rising ground S. side of the Ouse Valley, left hand of main road from Newport Pagnell to Northampton. The church, with Willen, is one of the most important classical churches in the county. It was built in 1728 and is an interesting example of its period, having a baroque ceiling adorned with fruit and flowers and other excellent contemporary detail. It contains a realistic monument by Roubiliac of Sir Nathan Wright (1765-1721), Lord Keeper, a successful but not remarkable lawyer, whose son, George Wright, purchased the estate of Gayhurst in 1704. The figures are life size, the Lord Keeper in his robes. A more interesting family which is considerably connected with Gayhurst was that of the Digbys. Sir Everard Digby, by marriage with Mary Moulso, became its possessor in 1596. He was executed for his share in the Gunpowder Plot in 1606.

Gayhurst House is the finest example of 16th-cent. domestic architecture in North Bucks. The oldest portion was probably built about 1500-20. Nearly at the end of the century William Mulso, the owner at the time, built a new house, and after the fashion of the age it was planned in the form of an E in honour of the Queen, the earlier part forming the S. or lower wing and the new porch forming the centre limb. In 1725 George Wright, of whom mention has already been made, filled up the space at the back of the E by adding a dining-room and a ballroom above, and a grand

staircase. Thus the garden front illustrates the architecture of the 18th, as the main front does that of the 16th-cent. The house is now partially used as a boys' school, though a portion is retained as a private residence. In the garden is a sundial engraved with the date, 1670, and the motto of the Digbys, 'Nul que une', and near the front of the house a monumental pedestal, with some lines 'To the Memory of a Beautifully Mottled Peacock', following a quaint fashion of the 17th and 18th cents.

George Green

[D.7]

Formerly a pleasant hamlet in Langley Marish. Still retains a few old brick and timber cottages, but has been spoilt by villas, road-widening, and the approach of Slough.

Gerrard's Cross

[D.6]

is a pleasant common and residential district and forms a useful centre for excursions into the surrounding country through Bulstrode Park, to Hedgerley, and to Jordans, etc. A most quaint-looking church of yellow brick, having both dome and campanile, designed by Sir Wm. Tite, the architect of the Royal Exchange, was erected in 1859. It stands on the edge of the wide common, alongside which runs the London-Oxford road.

Grandborough

[B.3]

is a poor village among large pastures. The church stands on high ground SE. of the village and is marked, like so many churches in this immediate district, by the Perp. details which have been added at a late date. The E. window is the best; the doorway on the N. side of the chancel is dated 1589. Note the small alabaster panel of the Crucifixion in the chancel; the 15th-cent. chrismatory was found in a wall of the church.

Grendon Underwood

[B.3]

was in old records Grendon under Bernwode, a name which describes its position in the low-lying meadows, not far from the higher ground to the W., in which began Bernwood Forest. A local couplet says of it:

'Grendon Underwode

The dirtiest town that ever stode',

—as hunting men with the Bicester Hounds have before now found it—yet in summer-time it is a pleasant straggling village among the green of luxuriant elms and hedgerows. The church is at the W. end of the village. It has only a nave, chancel, and W. tower, Perp., with a turret, and an EE. doorway on S. side. There is a noticeable 18th-cent.

monument in the chancel to John Pigott of Doddershall (d. 1751) by Scheemakers. On right of, and a few yards off, the road to Aylesbury, half-way down the village, is a portion of an old house, once the Ship Inn, and now called Shakespeare's house. It is unquestionably an interesting piece of domestic architecture, probably of the 16th cent., but tradition has it that Shakespeare used to stay here on his way to and from London, and here wrote *Much Ado about Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The story is chiefly based on a statement of Aubrey, the antiquarian, who lived within twenty-six years of Shakespeare's death. He says, 'The humours of . . . the constable in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* he happened to take at Grendon in Bucks. I think it was a midsummer night that he happened to lye there, which was on the road from Stratford to London.' It is obvious that one may build on this statement whatever superstructure imagination may suggest.

Just at the end of the parish, on the main road from Aylesbury to Bicester, on N. side, is an old inn—The Crooked Billet—with a sign-board on which the old inscription has been repeated:

MARY HUFF

She sells good beer,

And that's enough.

N.B. A mistake here.

She sells spirits as well as beer.

Grim's Dyke

[C.4-C.5]

or ditch of Grim, is an ancient earthwork about the origin and object of which nothing definite is known. In Buckinghamshire it is met at Bradenham, not far from High Wycombe, whence it extends through woods to Lacey Green, bounds the parish of Prince's Risborough, runs through Hampden Park towards Great Missenden, passes King's Ash in the parish of Wendover, traverses woods near St. Leonards over Wigginton Common to Berkhamstead in Herts. This work, extending over a considerable space, roughly speaking from E. to W., has often been supposed to be of British origin, but modern antiquarians are now agreed that the date of the work cannot be rightly asserted, though it is almost certainly of Anglo-Saxon origin, and since the ditch is on the wrong side for military purposes, owing to the lie of the land, the whole work is probably in the nature of a boundary mark. (See reference in Introduction.) In this state of doubt this interesting archaeological question must

therefore be left. The work was considered to be of supernatural origin in the early Middle Ages, when it got its name Grim's Ditch, meaning the Devil, to whom anything that could not be explained was attributed. The work is similar to other linear earthworks which are met with in various parts of the country, i.e. Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire in particular.

Grove

[E.5]

is a small parish on the Bedfordshire border, through which runs the Grand Union Canal. The church has lost its chancel at some period. The much-restored nave contains a circular tub-shaped Norm. font.

Haddenham

[B.4]

is a large and important village in the Vale of Aylesbury, nearly 1 m. long. The lower part is called Church End and the upper Town End, while various other parts of the village also have names, such as Dollicot. This may be compared with Weston Turville (q.v.) and other Bucks. villages, which are divided into 'endships'. The names of all the various plots belonging to the former open-field system of cultivation, though now obsolete, have been recorded and preserved. The village is intersected by many winding lanes, containing a good number of ancient dwellings. The houses and walls are nearly all built of a local material called wichert, a species of chalk marl, which dries into hard blocks and makes good walls. This is known as cob in the W. country. Mention may be made of Church Farm House (15th cent.) and Dove House (early 17th cent.), the latter still retaining its dovecote. The church is a striking building, facing the large green, the EE. tower being the best specimen in the county of a tower in this style. It has a good arcade round the upper storey, and below, on W. face, is a three-light window. The nave arcades and chancel are also EE., but Dec. and Perp. windows have been inserted in the aisles and a Dec. N. porch added. The plaster ceiling of the nave dates from the early 19th cent. and hides a 14th-cent. roof. Note (1) outer door in N. porch, dated 1637; (2) late Norm. font with two grotesque monsters carved upon the rim; (3) former rood screen (Perp.) now placed below tower arch; (4) early 16th-cent. seats with poppy-heads, in nave; (5) 13th-cent. masonry pattern painting in chancel; (6) Perp. screens between N. aisle and N. chapel, also S. of chancel; (7) very beautiful EE. piscina in N. chapel, having dog-tooth and diaper ornamentation; (8) old glass in E. window of N. chapel, restored as 1914 War Memorial. This was probably a Creed window



28 HAMBLETON MILL



29 HAMBLEDEN: THE VILLAGE CENTRE

and the figures of SS. Paul, Matthew, and Bartholomew can be identified, also two angels; (9) on S. wall of chapel, half effigy of a priest (c. 1420), and incorrectly placed under it an inscription to Gylls Wodbryge and Elizabeth, his wife, the effigies belonging to which are lost. On the same wall is another brass commemorating Thomas Nassh, priest, 1428.

Halton

[C.4]

is a picturesque group of cottages in the park of Halton House, 2 m. N. of Wendover. The church, built in 1813, is charmingly situated, and is in Norm. and EE. revival style. On the N. wall of chancel, behind hangings, is a brass effigy of Henry Bradshawe, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, 1553.

Halton House is a conspicuous object between the village and the Chilterns. It now forms part of the large R.A.F. establishment. It was one of the vast and ornate Rothschild houses in this area and is in French chateau-cum-Scottish baronial style.

Hambleton (Pl. 28, 29)

[B.6]

is a charming village in an ideal landscape setting, the red-roofed cottages, with dormer windows and soft-toned roofs, having a background of rich foliage and rising hill. It is placed quite in the hollow of the valley, and a charming view is gained on the road from Hambleton Lock. The manor-house, opposite E. end of church, is a marked feature, with its high gables, and was built about 1604. The rectory is another good house with tall Georgian brick front. The church has been much rebuilt and restored; it originally possessed a central tower, destroyed in 1703, which was succeeded by a W. tower in 1721, which was in its turn rebuilt during the 19th cent. The nave is mainly of the 12th cent.; about 1230 the N. transept was lengthened and an aisle added to it on the E. About 1340 the nave was much rebuilt and later in the same century the chancel was lengthened and the S. transept enlarged. The chancel chapels, vestry, and S. porch are modern. Note 12th-cent. font, Dec. sedilia and piscina, and some fine early 16th-cent. wood panelling in the tower. There is a monument to Sir Cope Doyley and his wife (1633), a good specimen of Jacobean work, with a curious mixture of realism and symbolism; of the family of children who kneel below their father and mother, some are holding a skull, showing that they predeceased their parents. This monument is attributed by Mrs. Esdaile to Epiphanius Evesham. Some brasses remain, remnants of a larger number. On the N. wall of nave, near tower arch, is a fine brass which is attributed to Sheepwash

and his two wives (about 1620), the dress being that of the time of James I. On the N. side of S. door are two effigies representing a man and wife, probably that of Wm. Shypwasche and his wife, Margery (about 1500). About these are four children, and above the first-mentioned is a figure of a woman praying. On the S. wall of tower is a man in a mantle, and opposite to him a headless figure in a long cloak (c. 1600). On the N. wall of tower is a civilian, with lower part of effigy lost (c. 1500).

There is a small museum containing finds from an important Roman villa or farm excavated in 1912. The remarkable number of ninety infant burials was found. This is, of course, quite a record, though to find infant burials among the remains of Roman villas is fairly common. The outstanding feature of the establishment was a large number of furnaces beneath the floors of long, barn-like buildings, suggesting the drying of damp or unripe grain.

Hampden, Great

[C.5]

ranks with Stoke Poges in its union of country charms and personal associations.

There is no village of Great Hampden, only some scattered houses and an inn, set among upland commons and great beechwoods. The place may thus be said to consist of the church and the house, which are separated only by a roadway, the house still looking down on the now wild avenue of beeches and Spanish chestnuts as in John Hampden's time, and the church still standing in the shade of the surrounding trees, under which one sees the pleasant prospect of the extending park. Both church and house are inseparably associated with the family of Hampden, and more especially with the patriot. After he married, in 1619, Hampden settled down at Great Hampden, representing the neighbouring little town of Wendover in the first three Parliaments of Charles I; in the Short Parliament (April 1640), and in the Long Parliament he was one of the members for the county. At Great Kimble, on a January morning in 1635, he made his protest against ship money, and in respect of the 20s. tax on his estate in the parish of Stoke Mandeville, there ensued the famous litigation which raised the question of the validity of ship money. When the Civil War broke out Hampden raised and took command of a regiment of Buckinghamshire militia, and though he was wounded at Chalgrove Field in Oxfordshire and died at Thame, he was buried in the church at Great Hampden.

The family possessed the estates from the Conquest, when Baldwyn de Hampden was in possession, till 1754, when through female descent they passed to a cousin, the Honourable Robert Trevor, who took the name and arms of Hampden. In 1824 the Honourable George Robert Hobart, sixth Earl of Buckinghamshire, the next heir of the Hampdens, succeeded to the property, and bequeathed it on his death, in 1849, to his nephew, George Hampden Cameron.

The house, a large, low-battlemented building, is now used as a girls' school. It stands on the elevated site (700 ft.) of the old mansion of the Hampdens; and although this was almost entirely pulled down and rebuilt in 1754, the existing building retains some portions of 14th-cent. date, as well as much Jacobean work.

Queen Elizabeth stayed here on one of her numerous progresses, and there is a tradition that she suggested that a way should be cut through the woods, which is said to have given the present avenue the name of the Queen's Gap. Hampden is the Burnham of Black's novel of *Kilmeny*.

The church has a tower, chancel, and aisles, and in each aisle a squint. The chancel, clerestory, and upper portion of tower are Perp.; the remainder is Dec.; the font is 13th cent. The interest of the church lies in the plain tablet on the S. wall of the chancel, which Hampden placed to the memory of his first wife, Elizabeth Simeon, and the charming inscription which, now scarcely legible, he himself wrote. It runs:

‘In her pilgrimage

The staie and comfort of her neighbours,
The love and glory of a well-ordered family,
The delight and happiness of tender parents,
But a crowne of blessings to a husband
In a wife: to all an eternal pattern of
Goodness and cause of Joy; whilst

She was,

In her dissolution

A loss unvaluable to each, yet herself blest, and they fully recompenc'd in her translation from a tabernacle of claye and fellowship with mortalls to a Celestial Mansion and Communion with a Deity, the 20th day of August,
1634.

John Hampden, her sorrowful Husband, in perpetual
memory of his conjugall love, hath erected
this Monument.'

Opposite, on N. wall, is a curious and elaborate monument erected about 1755 by Robert Hampden to the memory of John Hampden, his grandfather, who, though buried in the church, is without a contemporary monument. It is by Henry Cheere. In the middle floor of the chancel are two sets of Brasses, not only valuable as excellent examples of this form of monument, but from the link which they form with the Hampdens of a long-departed age. Nearest to the altar-rails are the brass effigies of 'John Hampden, esquier (d. 1496), and Elizabeth, hys wyffe'. This is the oldest Hampden monument in the church. On another slab, near the middle of the chancel, is a knight in armour, with his two wives. This is Sir John Hampden (d. 1553). Some of these have been found to be palimpsest.

There were important remains of wall-paintings; on S. wall of nave at W. end there was part of a Seven Deadly Sins subject (compare Little Horwood). This and some other work above the S. arcade was scandalously whitewashed over in 1938. Note the encaustic tiles in the chancel and the fragments of coloured stone-carving preserved in a glass case, probably from a destroyed monument or elaborate niche.

Hampden, Little

[C.5]

consists of a very small church and a few scattered farms and cottages. The church is $\frac{3}{4}$ m. N. of the main road from Great Missenden to Prince's Risborough on the W. side of a valley very characteristic of the Chiltern Hills, with its woods and light arable land. The primitive-looking timber-framed porch of two storeys is noteworthy, and is of 15th-cent. date. Note also a small figure of an ecclesiastic on S. wall of chancel.

The mural paintings, brought to light in 1907, are important; there appears to have been four series, the earliest on the E. wall of the nave on a deep, red ground. There are two representations of St. Christopher; that to the W. of the doorway is the earliest in all England and probably dates¹ from the latter part of the reign of Henry III (1216-72). Other subjects are St. Peter; two lions; figures of bishops and a Majesty (over the chancel arch) and the remains of a Doom on the S. wall. The communion table is early 17th cent. and below it is the original stone altar-slab with its consecration crosses.

Hanslope (Domesday, Hamescle)

[C.1]

is a large village on a breezy plateau. It is close to the borders of Northamptonshire, and the country around represents the purely midland part of England rather than

¹ See *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. IX, p. 451.

the wide meadows of central Buckinghamshire. A few of the older cottages are thatched, but red bricks and blue slates are gradually ousting the less modern material. In the middle of the 19th cent. Hanslope contained many, lace-makers. Lipscomb says 500 persons were, when he wrote, engaged in this occupation.

After the Conquest, the manor was presented to a soldier from Flanders named Winewar, and later we hear of Michael de Hanslope being its possessor, and his daughter carried it by marriage to the Mauduit family. The name of the manor in Domesday cannot well by any ingenuity be developed into Hanslope, and it is probable that Hanslope retains the appellation of the most important of its mediaeval lords.

The church, with its slender and graceful spire, is conspicuous from afar. It is one of the few churches of the county which have spires, and it is unquestionably the most admirable of these. The spire, which is nearly all modern, rises from a western tower (15th cent.) supported by four flying buttresses terminated by crocketed pinnacles. A quaint old local rhyme with a 'catch' in it concerns this spire, and runs thus:

'If Hanslope spire were ten times higher
I'd take off my shoe and jump over it.'

The chancel arch is a fine piece of Norm. work, and is supported by four pillars with enriched scalloped capitals. The S. wall retains its 12th-cent. design, considerably restored. The S. door of the chancel has good Norm. zigzag ornament, and the S. wall has on the outside a corbel table, partly of beaded ornament and partly of grotesque heads, whilst six high pillars, having between them rounded arches, which have been restored, are noticeable and unusual. The N. and S. porches are late 15th-cent. work.

The present church seems to have been founded about 1170. The N. and S. aisles were added in the 13th cent., and the other parts mostly in the 14th and 15th cents. To the N. of the font is a small brass effigy of a child—Mary, daughter of Thomas Birchmore (1602). Several other brasses may be noted, and some 15th-cent. mural paintings in the nave. Three-quarters of a mile to the SE. of the village is Hanslope Park, a small, pleasant and well-timbered park.

Hardmead

[C.1]

is a secluded place close to the borders of Bedfordshire in a quiet agricultural district, to N. of the main road from Newport to Bedford. The church is in a pleasant umbrageous

spot near the manor-house, and, though small, has a nave, two aisles, and W. tower (c. 1250). It contains, however, in N. aisle a noticeable monument—a recumbent figure of Francis Catesby (1636), and a brass, on wall of N. aisle, E. end, of Francys Catesby (1556).

Hardwick

[C.4]

is a well-grouped village, the houses clustering round the church on a little eminence just off the main road from Aylesbury to Winslow; on the E. side of it is a valley of meadows. The church is interesting, because the nave is probably of pre-Conquest date, as shown by a double-splayed window on the N. side. The Dec. windows in the S. aisle are noteworthy. There is a good monument to Sir R. Lee (1616). In the churchyard, on the S. side of the tower, is a large monument in the form of a rough sarcophagus or chest of stone, erected by Lord Nugent in 1818 to contain the bones of 247 persons, discovered buried haphazard in pits two to four feet deep near Holman's Bridge, outside Aylesbury. This is the reputed site of the Civil War battle of Aylesbury in 1643. The inscription concludes: 'enemies, from their attachment to opposite leaders and to opposite standards in the sanguinary conflicts of that civil war, they were together victims of its fury, united in one common slaughter. They were buried in one common grave close to the spot where they had lately stood in arms against each other. May the memory of the brave be respected and may our country never again be called to take part in contests such as these which this tablet records.'

There are a number of good old houses and cottages in the village. Of the former, the best is the rectory, with fine 18th-cent. pedimented brick and stone front and good contemporary staircase and panelling, incorporating earlier work which includes a doorway dated 1551 and a 17th-cent. staircase. The Manor Farm, Church Farm, and the Bell Inn are also good houses.

Hartwell (Domesday, Herdewelle) (Pl. 45)

[B.4]

consists to all intents of the Hartwell House and Park, and the church stands in the grounds to the NW. of the house. The Lees, already a well-known Bucks. family, came into possession of the property in 1617. Among the members of a capable family the most noticeable is Sir W. Lee, who became Lord Chief Justice in 1737, and in 1754 Chancellor of the Exchequer, but died in the same year. Sir Thomas Lee built the present house early in the 17th cent. on the site of one much older. On the staircase, which was removed in

1939, were twenty-four curious figures representing Hercules, the Fairies, and Knights carved in oak, which probably were placed there when the house was built. A good view of Hartwell House is obtained from the footpath to Stone (q.v.). Hartwell has obtained a kind of fame, because Louis XVIII lived there from 1809 until his return to France in March 1814. The gardens were originally laid out in the formal style with terraces and an artificial lake, which still remains, though the garden has been put into a more natural state.

The church is a remarkable building erected by Sir Henry Lee between 1753 and 1756. It was designed by Henry Keene, who also designed the Guildhall at High Wycombe, it is said in imitation of the Chapter House at York, but with twin towers added at E. and W. The interior possesses a magnificent fan-vaulted plaster ceiling. Sad to relate, this most interesting specimen of 18th-cent. Gothic has been closed for some years and is now unsafe, and the parish has been united with Stone.

Hartwell, Upper and Lower

[B.4]

Hamlets with admirable groups of cottages and farms, in Stone and Hartwell parishes.

Haversham

[C.2]

is a small village in a secluded hollow in a well-cultivated and varied district, not far from Northamptonshire.

The church is the only point of interest. It is delightfully situated above the village, surrounded but not overshadowed by fine trees. The tower and part of the nave are Norm., the rest of the building is of later date. Note especially the beautiful 14th-cent. monument on N. side of chancel, which is probably that of Elizabeth, Lady Russell, whose fourth husband was Sir John Russell, Knt. She had previously married, firstly, Robert Lord Grey of Rotherfield; secondly, Sir John Clinton, Knt.; and, thirdly, Sir John de Birmingham, and by her will directed her body to be buried in Haversham church. Beneath a richly Dec. canopy lies, carved in white alabaster, the figure of an aged woman. In the floor of the chancel is a brass, considerably worn, representing a skeleton, a memorial to John Maunsell (1605); and on the S. wall is another commemorating Alice, wife of Thomas Payn, 1427. In a field E. of the 17th-cent. manor-house, which is close to the church, is a dovecot with the date 1665.

Hawridge

[D.5]

consists of some scattered houses with the long strip of high common which joins Cholesbury Common on the S. The church is adjacent to the Manor Farm and was rebuilt in

1856; the old Norm. font from its predecessor was retained. Round the Manor Farm is a prehistoric camp which was defended by a single rampart and ditch.

Hazlemere

[C.5]

is a modern parish on the road from High Wycombe to Amersham. It possesses a Victorian Norm. church dating from 1845. Messrs. Betjeman and Piper record in *Murray's Guide to Bucks.* that 'the interior has been chastened by 20th-cent. taste'!

Hedgerley

[D.6]

is a small and secluded village in one of the characteristic Buckinghamshire bottoms, among a tangle of copses, small grass fields, and meadows. Though without any distinct feature it is extremely typical of an old village among the uplands of the county, having undergone few changes. It is dominated on the E. very picturesquely by the church, which is perched on a grassy headland. This church, rebuilt to the designs of Benjamin Ferrey in the sixties of the last century, is the third to occupy the site and is a simple and pleasing building. It contains a palimpsest brass, portraying Margaret Bulstrode (1540) and some children. On the reverse of the effigy is part of an epitaph in English verse—on that of the children—the lower part of the figure of an ecclesiastic, and behind the inscription a memorial of Thomas Totyngton, abbot of Bury St. Edmunds (1312). On the N. side are brasses of Robert Fulmer and Joanna his wife (1498). There is a curious relic, now framed, which, according to tradition, is a piece of a cloak of Charles II, which he gave as an altar-cloth. The octagonal font, with the Tudor rose and small reliefs of faces probably cut on a 12th-cent. bowl, is interesting; also the quaint 17th-cent. painting of the Commandments hung in the tower, surrounded by scenes from the life of Moses and of the fate of those who broke each Commandment. It is dated 1662.

Three Romano-British pottery sites have been identified in the area. One kiln has been excavated and reported in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XIII (1934-40), pp. 252-80.

Hedsor

[C.6]

is a parish which has no village, but the interest of which is centred in Hedsor Park and church. The house is built on the site of the old manor-house, on the summit of a hill, and is not ineffective in the landscape. There is a notable specimen of an 18th-cent. 'eye-catcher' or artificial ruined castle tower on a hill nearby, known as Lord Boston's Folly. It is now sadly decayed and much overgrown with ivy. The



30 ALL SAINTS, HILLESDEN



31 HIGH WYCOMBE

TWO FINE PERPENDICULAR CHURCHES



[Country Life Photo

32 CHEQUERS: THE NORTH FRONT



33 HUGHENDEN MANOR

church is on another hill within the park, to the S. of the house. It has no architectural value, the arches and piers being all that is left of the original mediaeval church. Note, however, a flat gravestone outside E. end commemorating Rowland Hynd, 1606, 'who re-edified this church'. The quaint dovecot belfry and the warm roof, the trees about it and the distant views over Cookham and the valley of the Thames give it, however, a character of its own. It is reached by a pathway from the drive which enters from the Taplow and Wooburn Road. For those who are boating it is pleasant to land at the stage of the weir close to Cookham Lock, and follow the pathway to the road. This walk can only be taken by those who are actually going to the church, for otherwise strangers are not allowed to land. As to the Romano-British pile dwelling, discovered in 1895, near Cookham Lock, see Introduction, p. 20.

Hillesden (Domesday, Ilesdene) (Pl. 30)

[B.3]

is one of the most out-of-the-way places in the county. The church, the parsonage, and a cottage or two form the centre of a parish of about 200 inhabitants, while the road, whether from Preston Bisset or Gawcott, is through grass fields and lines of gates. To the E. from the corner of the churchyard there is a way over grass through an avenue a mile long, which disappears in an aimless sort of fashion into the low-lying meadows. At the end, after a turn to the left among hedgerows, the wayfarer comes upon a reedy tributary of the Ouse, over which there is a footbridge. But in this remote place is the finest Perp. church in the county, with the exception only of Maids' Moreton. The tithe of the church belonged to the monks of Notley Abbey, and it was by them that the present church was built. A complaint was made at the Bishop's visitation in 1493 that the church was very ruinous, and that the Abbot of Notley ought to amend it, and he therefore rebuilt it, and his work remains while scarcely a stone is left of the abbey by the Thame.

The weak part of the building is the tower, which is poor, and of a period earlier than the body of the church, which, to use Sir Gilbert Scott's words, is 'an exquisite specimen of the latest phase of Gothic art'. It was this church which inspired Gilbert Scott with his love for Gothic architecture. He was the son of the incumbent of Gawcott near by. In the church a drawing by him is preserved. The church consists of a nave with small transepts and a chancel, a chantry chapel being added to the N. of the chancel of the same length with it, and a sacristy of two storeys, with a large

stair turret in one corner, a N. porch and a W. tower. Externally the two most striking features are the porch and the NE. stair turret, which is one of the finest in England, for a small parish church. The interior is harmonious and uniform in treatment, the arches and supporting columns between the chancel and chantry being especially noticeable. The rood screen, of same date as the church, is remarkable. It has three arched bays, each subdivided into four lights, with tracery of great beauty. The desks in the chancel, and many pew-ends and seats in the nave, are notable. Below the ceiling of the chancel are carved half-figures of angels holding scrolls of music and musical instruments, probably representing the *Te Deum*. Underneath the modern altar is the original stone altar-slab with consecration crosses. In the N. chapel is a 17th-cent. communion table.

In the chancel is a fine monument (1555) to Thomas Denton and his lady (he died in 1560) of alabaster, and having all the character of Renaissance work.

The mediaeval glass in the E. window, containing figures of saints, bishops, and popes, is work of the late 15th cent. Still more important is the glass in the four upper lights of the E. window of the S. transept, which has been called the St. Nicholas window. In this are depicted various incidents in the legend of St. Nicholas, and between each compartment is an inscription in Latin indicative of the subject of the painting above it. There are remains of a series of consecration crosses. Though the church is now somewhat bare and cold due to over-restoration, it is none the less one of the great treasures of the county. Many of the details should be compared with the chancel of North Marston.

At one time Hillesden House—its foundations can still be seen in the meadow at the E. end of the church—and its owners, the Dentons, were of much importance in the county. Edward VI granted the estate to Thomas Denton, an eminent lawyer, Treasurer of the Temple. He made it his home, and represented Bucks. in the Parliament of 1554. His monument has already been mentioned. But it was in the Civil War that Hillesden loomed largest. In 1644 it and the church formed the centre of a large fortified line. Both were defended and both were taken. You can see the marks of the bullet holes in the old oak door of the church, and you can read of the episode in the second volume of *The Memoirs of the Verney Family* (p. 192). Two days after Hillesden House was taken it was burnt, and its owner, Sir Alexander, who was imprisoned, died of a broken heart

—his misfortunes were indeed overwhelming, for his son, Col. John Denton, was killed at Abingdon—but in 1648 we read, ‘they are building there againe and intend to sett upp a little house where the old one stood’. Hillesden House rose from its ashes and was described in the succeeding century as a ‘good old house’, with a ‘very bold terrace’. This house has in its turn been destroyed so completely that not a trace of it remains except the wall and gate and the mound of the terrace. Perhaps after all the most striking feature of the place is the contrast between the fine and dignified church and the tiny parish to which it belongs.

Hitcham (Domesday, Hucheham)

[C.6]

The church, with rare ancient glass, is delightfully situated. The churchyard is enclosed by an old, low, red-brick wall (1681–6). On the right-hand side of the road running W. there is a pleasant view to the N. over Hitcham Park, and to the NE., overlooking the low-lying walled gardens of the old manor-house. There are no remains of the fine mansion where, in 1602, Queen Elizabeth visited Sir William Clarke, Knt., and which at a later date was owned by the noted physician and writer, Dr. John Friend, who is famous as one of the remarkable group of men of letters and statesmen who were gathered round Harley and Bolingbroke in the last years of the reign of Queen Anne. More fortunate than most of his Tory friends, he obtained an appointment in the Court of George I.

The church was originally Norm.; the nave is of the 12th cent.; the chancel is of the 14th cent. Note the fine Dec. E. window of four lights, with two large quatrefoils and a wheel above them, filled with old stained glass (c. 1340), more fragments of which will be seen in the other windows in chancel. The original scheme was the Hierarchy, or Nine Orders of Angels, with the Four Evangelists in the tracery lights. High up in the S. wall note the curious circular window (14th cent.) restored, and in the same wall a piscina and sedilia. A fine Norm. arch (c. 1190) divides the chancel from nave. Note in latter four Norm. windows, two blocked, N. and S.—also the carved pulpit (17th cent.), and in the vestry, N. of chancel, an old chest. In the floor of chancel are some old encaustic tiles. The Dec. window over W. doorway in tower was originally in the nave. The deeply moulded doorway of S. porch has a fine oak door with large lock and key and handsome designs in ironwork. On N. wall of chancel is an alabaster monument to Sir W. Clarke (d. 1624). Under a canopy, each side of which a knight

holds back a marble curtain, is the life-sized recumbent effigy of a man in armour, and below, in front, are other figures, male and female, kneeling. On the S. wall opposite is a monument to Roger Alford (d. 1580), two kneeling figures, man and woman, and children behind. On the chancel floor is a well-preserved brass to Nicholas Clarke, 1551. The effigy depicts a man in armour, his head resting on a helmet; to his right two sons, and to his left the indents for two daughters. In the floor of the nave are two brass effigies of Thos. Ramsey and his wife Margaret, 1510, and below their four sons and three daughters.

Hoggeston (Domesday, Hochestone) [C.3]

is a small village $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the main road, between Aylesbury and Winslow, on high ground. Note (1) the heavy chestnut timbers beneath the tower, 16th cent.; (2) the Norm. piers; (3) some Dec. windows. The effigy of the founder (?) of the church in a niche is in the N. wall of chancel. He holds what may perhaps be the model of a church between his clasped hands. This has been supposed to represent William de Birmingham (d. 1342). The de Birminghamhs possessed the manor from the beginning of the 13th to the beginning of the 16th cent., when it passed by marriage to the Bulstrodes. Walter de Bulstrode was Chief Justice of the King's Bench, 1348, but one can now only conjecture whom this figure is intended to represent; probably, however, it was one of the family. The manor-house to the SE. of the church, with its high chimneys and gables, now a farm, was built c. 1620, and restored in the 18th cent. The only other building of note in the village is the former vicarage, a tall 18th-cent. house with good detail. A few pleasant old thatched brick and timber cottages remain.

Holmer Green [C.5]

Considerable hamlet in Little Missenden parish, lying off the main Wycombe-Amersham road. It has no features of interest.

Horn Hill [D.6]

Area of Chalfont St. Peter parish on Herts. border with small modern church, scattered houses, and good views over Rickmansworth and the Colne Valley.

Horsemoor Green [D.7]

Formerly part of Langley; now in Slough. A few old houses amid much undistinguished modern development.

Horsenden [B.5]

consists of a church, a mansion house built in 1810 on the site of an old building, and a few cottages grouped in the

low-lying meadows between Bledlow and Princes Risborough. The small church consists only of a chancel with Perp. windows; the nave was demolished in 1765, and the present W. tower was built from the stones of the nave. Note the 16th-cent. screen and some old encaustic tiles.

Horton

[D.7]

is a scattered village among the brooks and meadows, the willows and elms of the lower Thames Valley. The place is full of interest as the home of Milton from 1632 to 1637. His father had a house here, but no traces of it are left. His mother, Sarah Milton, who died in April 1637, is buried in the church. The inscription, now much worn, on her tombstone can still be seen in the floor of the chancel. The church, at the S. end of the village, is of some importance. The N. doorway (c. 1165) is a fine example of late Norm. work. Note the knotted cable, a somewhat rare ornament, showing the tendency towards the EE. style. The porch is late 15th cent. It is one of the best in the county and should be compared with the late 14th-cent. example at Stoke Poges. Note also the Norm. piers and font. The chancel arch is EE., a good deal restored, and most of the windows are poor Perp. The whole area has now become much built over and borders on the 'bungaloid' area around Wraysbury.

Horwood, Great (Domesday, Hereworde)

[B.3]

is a large village in broken country of mixed agricultural character.

The church stands on N. side of the main street. The tower, begun c. 1360, is dignified and large in treatment, and has a pinnacle at SW. corner. The windows, especially the W., are good. The nave and chancel are Dec. Note (1) E. window good, but very late Dec., almost transitional; (2) the loftiness of the interior; (3) the Perp. font, and screen; (4) Dec. piscina; (5) in chancel, brass effigy, Henry Virgine, Rector, 1487, in academical dress.

Horwood, Little

[B.3]

is a small village to the SE. of Great Horwood, with old cottages with high-pitched thatched roofs. The church, at N. side of the village, is a small building. The nave was built c. 1200, but the church has been a good deal restored; there are some fair Perp. windows. The most interesting features are the mural paintings on N. wall—St. Nicholas, 13th cent., and St. Christopher, 15th cent. The upper painting is of The Seven Deadly Sins, or the Morality of Pride and her Six Daughters, probably early 16th cent.

Hughenden (Pl. 35)

[C.5]

is a scattered parish, having for its centre the church and manor in contiguity, and around these all the interest in Hughenden is gathered. That interest is almost entirely modern and is connected with the years passed at Hughenden Manor by Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield, from 1848, when he purchased it, to his death in April 1881. It is an attractive and a characteristic spot. The site of the present house was occupied by a farmhouse until 1738, when the estate was purchased by a Mr. Charles Savage, who converted the old house into a gentleman's residence, and the arable land was transformed into a park. The true and ancient manor-house stood on the opposite ridge, and was known as Rockhalls. The modern Hughenden Manor, roomy but not large, stands on the back of a ridge of the Chilterns, almost surrounded by trees, from which the park, with many fine trees, falls in a green undulation. The house is now the property of the National Trust and is a strange 'romantic' Gothicized mansion in the heavy Victorian manner. It is in part privately inhabited and in part preserved as a Disraeli Museum, the great statesman's study and its contents being preserved just as he left it (open daily, except Monday, 2 to 6 p.m.). In the park, now partly owned by the High Wycombe Corporation, below the grounds of the house, but a little to the N., is the church, surrounded, like the manor-house, by trees. It was almost entirely rebuilt in 1874-5, the Norm. S. doorway, the chancel arch, and some other parts of the chancel, and the so-called De Montfort chapel, at the N. of the chancel, being all that is left of the mediaeval work, except a noticeable Dec. font. At the NW. corner of the chancel is the monument erected by Queen Victoria, and a simple marble tablet, on which is inscribed:

'TO THE DEAR AND HONORED MEMORY OF BENJAMIN DISRAELI, EARL OF BEACONSFIELD, this memorial is placed by his grateful and affectionate Sovereign and friend, Victoria, R.I. "Kings love him that speaketh right," Proverbs xvi. 13. Feb. 27th, 1882.'

Beneath it a brass inscription marks the place where Lord Beaconsfield used to sit. In the De Montfort Chapel are some curious monuments, the principal of which is on the S. side of the chapel and has been supposed to represent Richard, fifth son of Simon de Montfort. It is a recumbent cross-legged effigy in stone of a warrior in chain armour. On a slab resting against the E. wall is the rude figure of a

man in armour, cut in profile, holding in his right hand a mace. Against the same wall is another slab, with the effigy of a warrior, his body in full face, and the legs in profile; and on the sill of the E. wall lies the effigy of a knight in 14th-cent. plate armour; and in a niche in the N. wall another warrior, with a sword in his right hand and a cross in his left. It has been conclusively shown that these monuments, with the exception of that of the knight in plate armour, are spurious and were carved or altered in the time of Henry VIII.¹ The family of De Montfort had no connexion with Hughenden. A respectable local family, the Wellesbournes, seems to have wished to make out a connexion with a famous house. Hence this curious fraud. In the SW. corner of the chapel is the effigy of an emaciated figure in a shroud, on its breast is a small figure representing the departing spirit. Note also a brass to Robert Thurloe, Vicar, 1493, and a tablet, on which is represented a man kneeling at a desk, commemorating John Lane, 1621.

The walker should note a footpath entering the lower end of the park which leads along the slope below the house and cuts one which goes to the church. A pleasant walk is from Bradenham past the manor-house and across Naphill Common, and, bearing to the right at the edge of the common to Downley Common, to enter Common Wood on the dip of the Common (gate on left), and then to follow the bridle-way which leads to the level of the manor-house and thence to the church, a walk which leads from near the house of Disraeli's youth to that of his manhood and old age among picturesque bits of landscape with which he was very familiar. The spread of the industrial town of High Wycombe is unfortunately squeezing itself up all the once lovely surrounding valleys and the walker will have some rude shocks in this lovely locality.

Hulcott

[C.4]

lies secluded about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the main road. Passing along a lane, through wide grass fields, you come upon a large green lined with trees. On the S. side is the small church with a lych gate, modern; beyond, beneath the drooping limes which edge the E. end of the churchyard, glistens the water of an old moat. On the opposite side of the green are pretty cottages, old habitations, well and comfortably restored. The church is a small building with a nave, chancel, S. aisle, and a small bell turret at the NW. corner, and a Dec. E. window.

¹ *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. VII, p. 362, and *R.C.H.M. BUCKS.*, Vol. 1. pp. 209-210.

Hundridge

[C.5]

See Dundridge and Chartridge above. Contains a good 17th-cent. house with mediaeval chapel.

Hunts Green

[C.5]

Small area with a few cottages, added with several other similar parts to the remote parish of Lee in 1911.

Hyde Heath

[C.5]

Scattered district with chapel and some modern development, on high ground between Great and Little Missenden and Chartridge.

Ibstone

[B.6]

stands 666 ft. high on the borders of Oxon. and commands fine views—NW. over the vale of Oxford, SE. over the Hambleden valley. The high ridge above Turville, on which the Ibstone windmill stands, is in the heart of one of the best scenic areas of South Bucks. There is no village proper, the parish is scattered and small, and ecclesiastically joined to Fingest. The church, standing in a secluded, isolated spot, has much architectural interest. It is small, with chancel, nave, and wooden bellcot. The S. doorway, nave, with a small window at W. end, N. doorway (now blocked), and font, are all examples of Norm. work. The E. window is a plain EE. triplet. The S. window of nave and chancel is late Dec.; the old carved pulpit is chiefly early 15th-cent. work, on which note the curious ancient fastening for the hour-glass. In the churchyard, to NW. of church, an unusual position, is an ancient yew tree of remarkably large girth, and near the gate a large stone coffin. The Manor of Ibstone, or Hibertane, belonged to Hervey, the Pope's Legate at the time of the Norman Survey.

Ickford

[A.4]

is the centre village of a group of three in the meadows of the Thame valley, rather remote and lonely. An old local rhyme links them with Brill (q.v.). The interesting church, at the SW. end of the village, was built almost entirely in the 13th cent., and nearly all the details are worthy of study. It has nave, with aisles, chancel and W. tower with a saddle-back roof, all good EE. The nave has early 13th-cent. columns with capitals, and bases with square plinths. In the N. aisle should be noted a window (c. 1360) of three cinquefoiled lights, under a square head. Note (1) Jacobean pulpit and tester; (2) in chancel the monument to Thomas Tipping (1595) with Corinthian order superimposed upon Ionic order and panels with kneeling figures of children in low relief; (3) original stone altar-slab set upon 17th-cent. communion table.



34 LONG CRENDON: THE COURT HOUSE AND CHURCH



35 JORDANS MEETING HOUSE



36 LANGLEY MARISH: THE SEYMOUR ALMSHOUSES

The Manor Farm at Little Ickford, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. SE. of the church, dates from the 17th cent. The stone bridge of three arches across the Thame on the road to Tiddington was built in 1685. Half of the bridge is in Oxfordshire.

Ilmer (or Ilmire) (Domesday, Imere) [B.5]
is a very small village in the low-lying country of the Thame valley, and forms the most distant and the nearest to the Oxfordshire border of the group of small communities lying beneath Bledlow Ridge, Saunderton, Horsenden, and Bledlow. The church is quite small, with nave, chancel, N. porch, and wooden belfry. Note the octagonal font and the rood screen, late 15th or early 16th cent.

The Manor of Ilmer was, at the end of the 11th cent., held by a subfeudatory of the powerful Bishop of Bayeux by the service of keeping the King's Hawks, a service which continued for several centuries.

Iver [D.7]
though practically engulfed amid suburban surroundings, still retains its original 'core', and the neighbourhood of the church and bridge over the Colne is still pleasant. The church retains traces of pre-Conquest work, as well as work of later styles. The W. tower has a Perp. upper stage, and a late 15th-cent. doorway. At the NE. exterior angle of the nave pre-Conquest quoins are visible. The nave has a Norm. N. arcade; the S. arcade has EE. columns supporting Perp. arches. The chancel retains some EE. lancets, also double piscina and sedilia. Note (1) Norm. font of Purbeck marble; (2) remains of pre-Conquest double-splayed window over E. side of E. arch of N. arcade; (3) portion of former rood screen preserved; (4) Jacobean monument within the altar-rail, representing a woman rising from her tomb, a memorial, by Gerard Christmas, to Lady Mary Salter (1631), whose husband, 'full forty years a carver to two kings', is remembered by a tablet in the N. wall of chancel. Below this memorial is a brass to Sir R. Blount and his wife (1508); (5) monuments, in the S. aisle, to John King (1604) and Anne, wife of Robert Melinge (1610), both with kneeling effigies. In the church are preserved a pair of thatch-hooks, found in the tower. These were kept in the church for use in case of fire, when the thatch of a burning cottage could be pulled away.

Bridgefoot House is a fine brick mansion dating from the first quarter of the 18th cent., and has contemporary wrought-iron railings. G. F. Bodley, the church architect, lived there for some years at the beginning of the century.

Within the parish is Coppins, the home of the Duchess of Kent.

Iver Heath

[D.6]

is an ecclesiastical district, with a modern church to the NW. of Iver. The Pinewood film studio is in this neighbourhood.

Ivinghoe

[D.4]

Three short streets radiate from the church, forming now a fair-sized village; at one time it was a small town, with its market, fair, and court-house (now a parish room), and with some considerable houses near and around it, which have since disappeared. It is easy to understand its greater importance in the past. It stands just on the edge of the Chilterns on the verge of the meadows, and within it were collected those who in summer pastured their cattle on the meadows which extended far to the north. Placed, too, at the junction of the Upper and Lower Icknield Ways, and on the road for wayfarers passing to the NW., up the gap in the Chilterns which lies to the E. of Tring, it had a situation which tended to make it of some importance. Now it is left stranded by the movement of time. The only interesting feature in the place is the fine cruciform church. The Manor of Ivinghoe was granted by Edward the Confessor to the See of Winchester, and in the possession of the Bishops of Winchester it remained till 1551. This fact, together with the comparative importance of the little town, will help us to understand how so large and admirable a church was placed here, with its nave, chancel, N. and S. transepts, and central tower, from which rises a small steeple of the 'extinguisher' type, more common in Herts. The central tower, supported in the interior by four sets of clustered columns, gives the church within a grandeur which is striking. The church, though built c. 1230, is now mostly Dec., with some good windows of that period on the N. and S. side of nave, but the E. window is Perp. Windows of this style have also replaced the original circular ones in the clerestory of the nave, their blocked remains being still clearly visible. Note the fine wooden roofs (15th cent.) ornamented with carved figures of angels, monks, panels, bosses, etc., and the fine W. porch.

On the N. side of chancel is a monument under a 15th-cent. recess, with the figure of a priest.

The well-preserved carving on the capitals ('stiff-leaf' foliage) of the pillars should be especially noticed. It belongs to a group in the neighbourhood extending into Herts. and

Beds., and is the work of the same school of masons, if not of the same carver. Compare Pitstone, Eaton Bray, Flamstead, and Chalgrave. Note also the quaint and rude carving (15th cent.) on the standards of the modern benches, and the early 17th-cent. pulpit, with the large and no doubt much-appreciated hour-glass stand. Within the altar-rails are several brasses, much worn. It is not quite certain that the inscriptions are rightly allotted to the effigies. On the S. side of floor are the effigies of Richard Blackhed, 1517, and his wife, Maude, and above them one to William Duncombe, 1576. The effigies of his wives and children are lost. On the N. side are two more brasses, one commemorating Thos. Duncombe, 1531, and the other John Duncombe, 1594. To each of these the effigy of the wife is lost.

Note on the wall of the churchyard, a fine example of a thatch-hook—used for pulling the thatch from the roofs of cottages in the event of fire.

Sir Walter Scott took the title of his novel, as well as of its hero, from the name of the village of Ivinghoe. 'The name of Ivanhoe,' he says in his Introduction, 'was suggested by an old rhyme. All novelists have had occasion at some time or other to wish, with Falstaff, that they knew where a commodity of good names was to be had. On such an occasion the author chanced to call to memory a rhyme recording three names of the manors forfeited by the ancestor of the celebrated Hampden for striking the Black Prince a blow with his racket when they quarrelled at tennis:

'Tring, Wing and Ivanhoe,
For striking of a blow,
Hampden did forego,
And glad he could escape so.'

It is somewhat curious to note that Scott apparently had forgotten the true name of the place, as he quotes it incorrectly. The tradition, too, on which the rhyme was founded, has been disproved, as the Hampdens were never in possession of these manors, and the lines have recently been considered as a remnant of a cavalier song. Another old local rhyme, extremely uncomplimentary to the places concerned, runs thus:

'Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe,
Three dirty villages all in a row,
If you'd know the reason why,
Leighton Buzzard is hard by.'

To the SE. of the village, beyond some large intervening fields, rises an outlying piece of the Chilterns called the Ivinghoe Hills. From the Icknield Way they are somewhat striking. A long, high down is nearest to the main chain, and then to the NE. are two clearly defined summits, the range concluding with the bold outline of Beacon Hill, which descends in grassy slopes to the Icknield Way below. On the summit of Beacon Hill an indicator has been placed showing the principal places of interest visible. To the N. is a panorama of outstretching country extending from the wooded borders of Bedfordshire, across the Vale of Aylesbury, to the dim heights of Ashendon and Brill. A winding road runs up the hillside, past the highest point of the Ivinghoe Hills (811 ft.), and so to Ivinghoe Common (723 ft.), which touches the Herts. border close to Ashridge. These hills are a fine rambling-ground and now form one of the chief objectives of motorists, cyclists, and walking parties from London. Together with a large portion of the Ashridge estate they were purchased by public subscription in 1925 and handed over to the custody of the National Trust.

Jordans (Pl. 35)

[D.6]

consists of the new Jordans village and the charming old meeting-house of the Society of Friends, by the side of the little graveyard famous far beyond Buckinghamshire as the burial-place of William Penn. It was built in 1688, following the Toleration Act, and is among the earliest of its kind in the country.

From the wooded dell, upon a corner of which are the graveyard and meeting-house, there slopes a meadow, at the head of which, by the side of the road to Chalfont St. Giles, is a farm which was restored in 1911 as a conference and guest-house by the Society of Friends. It contains many features of interest and is partly of 17th–18th-cent. date. Ellwood tells how in 1670, informers watched the meeting, ‘then holden at the house of William Russell, called Jourdans, in the parish of Giles Chalfont’. It is with this house that are inseparably linked many memories of religious enthusiasm and persecution in the beginning and middle of the 17th cent., since for years either the farm or the meeting-house was the centre where the Quakers from many miles around met for prayer. Tradition has it that the barn was built with timbers from the *Mayflower* itself. (See *The Finding of the ‘Mayflower’*, by Rendel Harris; Longmans, 1920.)

The small portion of meadowland now lined by thickly growing lime trees was purchased in 1671 on behalf of the

Society of Friends, and in 1688 the meeting-house was built partly from money left by the widow of Isaac Pennington. No place in Buckinghamshire is more interesting and suggestive. We still see the shady meadows among the wooded uplands. Across the road is still the old house of Stone Dean—added to in later times—which was built by Peter Prince, a member of the Society of Friends and a citizen of London, in 1691, and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. up the valley, towards Seer Green, is another old house, Dean Farm, once a Quaker home. The place would at any time be a charming piece of rural scenery, but when we see the plain headstone which marks the grave of William Penn (1644-1718), and note the last resting-place of Gulielma Penn, a woman whose attractive personality lives in Ellwood's naïve pages, and of six of Penn's children, as well as of those admirable men, Isaac Pennington and Thomas Ellwood, it becomes a unique spot difficult to equal in its surroundings of historical interest and charm of English landscape.

The meeting-house was not used regularly after 1798 until 1910, when many Friends having once again settled in the neighbourhood, it was reopened and is now one of the most flourishing meetings belonging to the Society of Friends. A pleasant footpath leads from Gerrard's Cross Station to Jordans. Follow the railway westwards as far as Bull Lane, where turn right and shortly left into Maltman's Green Lane. The second footpath to the left (where the road turns sharply right) should then be taken and Jordans is reached in about 2 m. (For books on Jordans, see Bibliography.)

Kimble, Great and Little

[C.5]

are two adjoining villages. The churches are only $\frac{1}{4}$ m. apart, with a slight hill between them; the place was called in Domesday, Chenebelle, and there has been assumed to be some connexion between this name and that of Cunobeline, the British king.

Little Kimble Church is very interesting, very small, and stands just above the Icknield Way, embayed in the finely timbered slopes of the park of Chequers Court. A little valley with a small piece of water crossed by stone bridge, a 17th- or 18th-cent. conceit, is seen from the E. end of the churchyard, and gives a completeness to a delightful bit of scenery. The church is interesting, because it remains so completely untouched by the restorer. In style it is Dec. (consecrated 1317), having only a nave and chancel, the small N. and S. windows, though not specially noticeable, give some harmony to the building. The church contains

important mural paintings, mainly of the first half of the 14th cent. On the E. splay of the NE. nave window, is the rare subject of St. Francis preaching to the birds; opposite is St. Clare; on the middle section of wall is a fine painting of St. George; on the other splays are traces of an ecclesiastic under crocketed canopy. There are remains of a Doom farther W. On S. wall is a large figure of St. Bernard, and part of a scene—the burial—from the life of St. Catherine. The oblong block of encaustic tiles in the chancel is interesting; six subjects in six compartments. The subjects are secular and show scenes connected with the romance of Sir Tristram. These are tiles of Chertsey Abbey type, late 13th cent. Note also an old plain font.

Great Kimble lies to the W. of Little Kimble, with an inn, formerly called the Rising Sun, and now known as the Barnard Arms or the Bear and Cross, and has a restored church with tower, nave, aisle, and chancel, in Dec. style, but quite the most interesting feature in it is the Norm. font of Aylesbury type. It is admirable in form. The fluted bowl has evidently at one time been coloured. Beyond the interest of antiquarian relics is the fact that at Great Kimble began the momentous constitutional contest between John Hampden and Charles I on the question of ship money, for the Hampdens owned the Manor of Kimbell from the middle of the 14th cent. to 1726, when it was sold to the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. It was on a day in January, in 1635, that Hampden came from his home among the leafless beeches along the road by Whiteleaf Cross to Great Kimble Church and refused to pay his assessment. The actual proceedings of 1637 were based on a refusal to pay the assessment on property in the adjacent parish of Stoke Mandeville, but it is the meeting in Kimble Church from which we must date the actual commencement of the personal aspect of the great struggle for Parliamentary government.

Kingsey

[B.5]

a small parish on the W. border of the county, was transferred to Oxfordshire in 1894, but once more transferred to Bucks. about half a century later in exchange for Towersey, which adjoins it. Both places lie close to Thame in the low-lying water-meadows of the river of that name. Their termination in *-ey* indicates that they were originally little islands in this marshy area. Kingsey Church was rebuilt, 1892–3, in the Gothic manner, incorporating some material from the earlier church, which dates from c. 1780.

Kingshill, Great and Little

[C.5]

Partly in Hughenden and Prestwood parishes, and partly in Little Missenden. A scattered area with modern development, and a few old houses in pleasant upland country.

Knotty Green

[C.6]

Residential district between Beaconsfield and Penn. See Forty Green above.

Lacey Green

[C.5]

is situated in the most secluded part of the Chilterns, and there is a fine section of Grim's Ditch in the neighbourhood.

Lane End

[C.6]

is a modern village, placed high amongst wooded surroundings, which owes its growth largely to the spread of the chair-making industry from High Wycombe. The church dates from 1867.

Langley (Pl. 36)

[D.5]

formerly known as Langley Marish or Maries, derives its second name from the de Marisco family, who held the manor in the time of Edward I. It is a considerable parish in the Thames Valley. Its centre is the old-world oasis in the midst of the suburban surroundings of Slough, which is formed by the church, almshouses, and a few cottages. Two groups of 17th-cent. almshouses of red brick, now much toned by time, and exceedingly picturesque and interesting, are on the N. and S. sides of the church; they are called the Old and New Almshouses. The old (S.) were built by Sir John Kederminster in 1617; the new, N. of church, between 1669 and 1689, by Sir Henry Seymour. To the W. are some pleasant old cottages of 17th-cent. date. The church, though architecturally somewhat chaotic, is attractive from its variety. It has a chancel, nave, W. tower, N. aisle, and S. chapel and library side by side. The tower of brick was built in 1649, and is a good example of 17th-cent. work. Indications point to the church having been built in the 12th cent., but the E. windows of aisle and chancel are Dec.; the other windows, with one exception, are square-headed with Dec. tracery. The nave has an interesting Doric colonnade of oak on N. side, dated 1630; there is a Dec. arcade of two bays between the chancel and N. chapel. The S. chapel was added by the Kederminster family in the 17th cent. The screen separating the nave and chapel is of Coade's artificial stone and was erected in 1792 from the designs of Emlyn, who was the architect of the organ gallery and screen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, which was executed in the same material.

Note in nave (1) at W. end of N. aisle, Royal Arms, coloured and gilt, dated 1625; (2) font, early 16th cent., with panels of quatrefoils exhibiting heads and flowers; (3) hexagonal pulpit, dated 1609, given by Sir John Kederminster. The rood screen is late Perp. and the sedilia in the chancel is a fine example of Dec. work. The Kederminster monument on the N. wall of chancel is a family memorial to Edmund Kederminster, who died in 1607 and erected the memorial before his death, and to his wife and children, and also to John Kederminster, who died in 1558, and to his wife and children. The two generations of Kederminsters are represented by kneeling figures in coloured marble; below are the children, with their names quaintly placed above them. A number of other tablets with quaint inscriptions may be noticed in this church. One brass remains, that to John Bowser (1608). Note old glass fragments in E. window (c. 1330) and also in the NE. window of N. chapel, two shields of England and a third of Clare (14th cent.).

The Library was given to the church by Sir John Kederminster, c. 1623, who adapted the 15th-cent. S. porch in order to contain it. Across the S. end of S. transept is a 17th-cent. screen forming a passage to the library, which possesses some 300 volumes dating from the 16th and 17th cents. They were provided under Sir John's will 'for the benefit of ministers and such other in the county of Bucks. as resort thereunto'. The painted panels of the wainscot presses are interesting and include books, figures of saints, views of Windsor Castle, Eton College, houses, landscapes and portraits of the donor and his wife, their arms, etc. In 1948 the Bucks. County Council, who had acquired the whole of the estate and Lordship of the Manor, thoroughly cleaned and restored both library and chapel.

There was a library similar to this at Willen, in the N. of the county, now, unfortunately, no longer existing. At the NE. end of the village is Langley Park, purchased by Sir R. Harvey, in 1788, from the Duke of Marlborough, and now the property of the Bucks. County Council. The existing house was built by the second Duke of Marlborough, grandson of the great Duke in the female line, soon after he bought the property in 1738. Still farther to the N., and separated by the road to Iver from the Park, is a fine tract of woodland ($1\frac{1}{2}$ m. long and $\frac{3}{4}$ m. in breadth) appropriately named Black Park from the many Scotch firs. The formal arrangement of the original planting (about the middle of 17th cent., when the lake was made) has long disappeared,



37 LILLINGSTONE DAYRELL CHURCH: THE ELEVENTH-CENTURY
CHANCEL ARCH, AND DAYRELL TOMB, 1571



and self-sown trees have grown up, forming a wild and beautiful bit of woodland scenery. The W. end is reached by the road N. from the church, keeping to the right, and then along the outskirts of Langley Park.

Lathbury (Domesday, Latesberie)

is a small village on a fertile tract enclosed in a loop of the Ouse, which, touching Newport Pagnell, turns then in a direction opposite its former course. The church and Lathbury House, rebuilt at the beginning of 19th cent., stand at the end of a lane S. of the Newport Pagnell and Northampton main road. The church, with nave, two aisles, chancel, and W. tower (Norm.) contains some interesting work, especially the S. doorway which, however, has evidently lost parts of the original work. The Trans. capitals of the pillars of the S. arcade are ornamented with grotesque monsters. The N. arcade is Dec. and the clerestory Perp. In the nave and aisles are considerable remains of 15th-cent. mural paintings. The decorative designs and the remains of an elaborate Doom are interesting. On the N. side is the Weighing of Souls and on the S. a set of the Seven Works of Mercy. Note in S. aisle part of a carved tympanum removed from a doorway and a window containing some 15th-cent. stained glass. The chancel is Dec. Note on N. of sanctuary incised wall tablet to Mrs. Alice Chandflower and her children (1604).

Latimer

[D.5]

a small secluded hamlet in the parish of Chesham, the centre of some delightful rural scenery, is a $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the main road between Chesham and Chenies, on the E. side of the valley of the Chess. It is very picturesque, an admirable example, like Chenies, of the Victorian romantic 'model village'. Cottages with old bow-latticed windows, a small green, the Chess winding through the meadows, and the high wooded slopes which rise behind the village, combine to form a delightful piece of English landscape. The manor was given by Edward III to William Latimer, to whose family it owes its present name, its more ancient one being Isenhampstead, to which the patronymic was added, and which, as in the case of Chenies, alone remained.

The modern Victorian-Elizabethan mansion occupies the site of the old house, which was for a time the prison of Charles I, and later a refuge to Charles II. It stands high, overlooking the valley of the Chess, and is now a joint services staff college. A small modern church is nearby. To the right of the main road to Chesham, after leaving Latimer, is Dell Farm, near which some years ago the site of a Roman

villa was discovered, coins, etc., were dug up, but the pavements left undisturbed.

Lavendon

[C.1]

is the northernmost village of the county, and is still a large village encircling the church; at one time it was more important. In the reign of Henry II, John de Bidun founded the Premonstratensian Abbey, which existed till the reign of Henry VIII. No trace of the building now remains. A farm, the Grange (c. 1625), has been built on its site.

The value of the church lies mostly in its remains of early work. The chancel, nave, and tower are examples of pre-Conquest work. The pillars of the nave are large and round, with square abacus, the S. having grotesque heads at each corner, and from them spring heavy-pointed arches, indicative of the transition from Norm. to EE. The S. and N. doorways are EE. and the porches Perp.

Lavendon Castle consisted of a mount with three baileys. A farmhouse now stands on the mount, which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the church. The earthworks remain impressive.

Leckhampstead (Domesday, Lechastede)

[B.2]

lies in a corner of the county close to Northamptonshire. Its position serves to make it remote, as it is not on any main road, and one discovers it in a small valley on a little stream which flows by the church, with a mill hard by. The church is of great interest. It has a chancel, nave, with N. and S. aisles and W. tower. The two chief features of the church are the N. and S. doorways (Norm.). Each is fine and each different—that on the S. being the earlier, and possesses a variety of ornamentation. The tympanum is especially noticeable with its curious carving. The N. doorway is a good example of transitional work. The hood-mould has a head at the apex and ends and is ornamented with a zigzag band and foliage. The 12th-cent. font, recut in the 14th cent., is rare and beautiful. It is octagonal, and each of the eight panels is filled with a different subject—a bishop—our Saviour on the Cross—St. Catherine—Mary and the Infant Jesus—four roses—two leaves within a garter in the figure of a heart—a dragon, out of whose mouth proceeds a tree. Nearby is a large recumbent figure of a knight in chain armour, 14th cent. Note also the monumental brass to Reginald Tylney (1506), and the 13th-cent. paintings on the nave piers, one of which has an inscription: *Hic sedet Isabella*.

Lee

[C.5]

is not much more than a hamlet on the uplands, in a very

secluded and pretty district, with deep bottoms, such as Ballinger Bottom, between the Missenden Valley and the borders of Herts. The village is a straggling collection of cottages, consisting of Lee and Lee Common, with an old manor-house much restored. There is a red brick modern church, and a little to the S. the old church, a small building, without a tower, is now used as a Sunday school, and is without any architectural features except a poor three-light 13th-cent. E. window. The mural monuments to the Plaistow family—the owners of the manor have been removed to the new church, also the sedilia.

1 m. E. of Lee, in Bray's Wood, are the remains of a prehistoric earthwork.

Lenborough (Domesday, Ledingeberg)

[B.2]

a small hamlet 2 m. S. of Buckingham. The manor-house, now a farm, was the property of Gibbon the historian, and it is said that he lived there for a time.

Ley Hill

[D.5]

Hamlet of Latimer with modern development on Chesham-Hemel Hempstead road.

Lillingstone Dayrell (Pl.37)

[B.2]

has no village, the parish being centred in the church, which lies in the fields to the E. of the main road from Buckingham to Northampton and close to a farmhouse. The church, which has an 11th-cent. nave and chancel arch, with N. aisle added in 1868, shows also much EE. work. The tower is in this style; on S. wall of chancel there is an EE. window of two lights, with a centre shaft and toothed ornament. The E. window is peculiar, showing a clear feeling of the transition from EE. to Dec., trefoils being placed as a kind of addition in the head to distinct three EE. lights. In the centre of the chancel is a fine tomb to Paul Dayrell and Dorothy, his wife, 1571, two recumbent figures, he in armour, their features finely and strikingly sculptured. On S. side of chancel is another tomb, having two brass effigies to Paul and Margaret Dayrell (1491). Notice the series of arched recesses on both sides of chancel, rather crude in detail, all late 13th cent. At the E. end of the chancel are some 13th-cent. tiles with raised design.

Lillingstone Lovell

[B.2]

was, until 1844, a parish and village of the county of Oxford, though it lies close to the Northamptonshire border. It is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the main road from Buckingham to Northampton, a quiet little place standing somewhat high in a pleasant country. The church, which is just on the edge of grass

fields, which stretch away to the E., is rather an interesting building with nave, chancel, N. and S. aisles, and W. tower, with a saddle-back roof, one of the three churches in the county which has this unusual roof. The characteristic features of this church are in Dec. style. The piers and the E. window of chancel and of S. aisle are all of this character. The former window is of somewhat unusual design, with late flowing tracery. Note also the Dec. niches in the S. aisle and the door of the S. porch. The brasses, which will be found in the floor of the chancel, are interesting, two hands holding a bleeding heart commemorating John Merstun, Rector, 1446. Near this are the effigies of Thomas Clarell and wife, Agnes, and beneath them their three children (c. 1460). In the floor of the middle aisle are two more effigies, memorials of William Rysley and his wife, Agnes (c. 1516). There is a 17th-cent. pulpit and some pews of the same date.

Linford, Great

[C.2]

is a scattered village with an ancient church on the S. side of the canal and railway between Wolverton and Newport Pagnell. The church consists of W. tower, nave, two aisles, chancel, and S. porch. The building appears to have been at one time an example of Dec. work, but the tracery of the windows has been mutilated during the 18th cent. The Perp. N. porch dates from c. 1320, is vaulted, and has a parvise above it. There are 17th-cent. communion rails and table. Note some interesting brasses. Two in N. aisle commemorate Thomas Malyn and Elizabeth, his wife, 1536; two, in the nave, Roger Hunt and his wife, Johane, 1473, with curious inscription; and one in the chancel, near communion rails, N., represents John and Anne Uvedall, 1611.

Note at E. of church the almshouses and a schoolhouse in the centre forming a charming and important group built between 1683 and 1704 by Sir W. Pritchard, of whom there is a monument in the church. The rectory and barn are of the 16th cent., and there are other good houses in the parish.

Linford, Little

[C.2]

Linford Hall, on the N. side of the Ouse, a few cottages and a farm, constitute the habitations of this small parish. The church is close to the hall on SE. side. It is a small building, the most interesting feature is the 13th-cent. bell turret. Note an ancient font.

Linslade (Domesday, Lincelada)

[C.3]

consists now of (1) New Linslade, an urban district adjoining the Leighton Buzzard railway station and best known as a frequented hunting centre in the winter; (2) old Linslade,

the church, manor-house, and a few cottages picturesquely placed in the Ouse Valley, having for a background the pine woods on the high land of Bedfordshire. (Walkers leave the Bletchley road by the tunnel and take the footpath by the canal.) The church was originally Norm. The rude chancel arch appears to belong to this period, also the interesting font, circular, with grotesque figures and foliage round the top. The details of the church are generally poor Dec. and Perp. Note (1) small brasses in the nave, figures of a man, three wives, and twelve children, c. 1500; (2) early 16th-cent. roof to chancel; (3) in SW. corner of chancel, single sedile facing E.; (4) low-side window on S. side chancel; (5) some interesting pieces of old glass (18th cent.). In the 13th cent. pilgrimages were frequent to a chalybeate spring near the church. The manor-house is now part of farmhouse and conspicuous to E. of church. The manor was held by the Corbets from end of the 15th cent. to 1688. At the hamlet of Southcote, SW. of Linslade, is the Rothschild stud farm, where many famous race-horses have been bred.

Little Missenden, see Missenden, Little

[C.5]

Littleworth Common

[C.6]

a pleasant common (200 acres) to N. of Burnham. There is a modern church close to the NE. entrance of Dropmore. (q.v.)

Long Crendon (Pl. 34)

[B.4]

is a large village on a ridge on the N. side of the Thame valley. At the E. end is the church and near the gate is the old court-house, a building of the 15th cent., in which the manorial courts were held. Here Walter Beauchamp, the Great Steward to Queen Catherine, Consort of Henry V, held courts from the first to the eighteenth year of the reign of Henry VI, and here the warden and scholars of All Souls, Oxford, held their court in 1449 and 1459. It is a most important architectural and social relic, and has been restored through the efforts of the National Trust. There are many good houses and cottages in the village; its size is partly accounted for by its former prosperity, in the trades or crafts of needle-making and pillow-lace manufacture.

Notley Abbey (q.v.) is in this parish, where are the best preserved monastic remains in the county. This is another typical Bucks. village with scattered nuclei or 'endships' (Church End, Lower End, Upper End, etc.) strung together by the long High Street which gives the place its qualifying name.

The large church is cruciform, with nave, aisles, central tower, chancel, and transepts. Its importance lies rather in

its size and general design than in its details. Viewed from the W. it gives a good impression of a Perp. building; though built mostly in the 13th cent., it has many later details. The N. transept has a good Dec. window, and the upper part of the tower is Perp. Note the fine EE. chancel and arches of the central tower, as well as the unusual feature of a W. porch, and a good, late 14th-cent. font. On the E. wall of N. transept are two worn brasses of a man and woman, John Canon (1460) and his wife (1468), and below them their three sons and eight daughters. In the S. transept is a large architectural monument, with recumbent figures of a knight in plate armour, and lower, a lady richly dressed, representing Sir John Dormer of Dorton and his wife. Above is a pediment supported by pillars of black marble. The date of Lady Dormer's death is given as 1605, but that of Sir John is left in blank; probably, therefore, the monument was erected, as was not uncommon, in his lifetime and his heirs forgot to fill in the date of his death, which was in 1626.

At the W. end of the village, at the top of the steep little hill by which it is approached, notice on the S. side of the road an old stone gateway. It is the entrance to Long Crendon Manor-house. This, a picturesque structure of stone and timbering facing a courtyard, contains the Great Hall with fine timber roof and other details. The other manor-house is near the church, approached by a narrow and striking avenue of elms and yews. It stands on the site, as seems certain, of the castle of Walter Giffard, the friend and adviser of the Conqueror, on whom Crendon, with many other manors, was bestowed. Crendon was the place which he chose as his new English home, and here he was succeeded by two more Walter Giffards, the first and second Earls of Buckingham. His 'park' stretched along the hill-side to the Thame, and by the banks of this stream, within the bounds of this domain, presently rose the stately walls of Notley Abbey (q.v.). On the death of the third Walter Giffard, without issue, in 1164, the vast possessions of the family were dispersed. In 1552 the manor passed into the possession of the Dormers of Dorton; subsequently, in later years, to the family of Grenville.

Longwick

[B.5]

Hamlet of Princes Risborough with Dissenting chapels.

Loosley Row

[C.5]

Considerable hamlet—Lacey Green parish with remnants of a windmill, and fine views from the ridge of the Chilterns, on which it stands.

Loughton

[C.2]

lies $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the E. of the Watling Street. It is a village of no size and without any special features, some old cottages mingling with ugly new red-brick structures. The church is conspicuous on high ground on the E. side of the village. The visitor will be at once struck with the rude device whereby the stability of the tower (15th cent.) is preserved—an additional buttress placed in the centre of the W. front. In the interior the tower arch, supported on either side by three pillars with rounded capitals, is noticeable. The arches and pillars of the nave are Perp., as are the windows. Note the monumental brass to Hugh Parke, Rector, 1514, inside the communion rails. The manor-house, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the church, restored in 1912, is an interesting example of domestic architecture of the 16th cent. and contains a late 16th-cent. wall-painting in black and white of Italian arabesque character.

Ludgershall

[A.4]

is a village on the borders of Oxfordshire among pastures and green lanes. It is of more than local importance, for Wycliffe held the living in 1368, but was never resident. The interior of the church is interesting. To be noted are (1) the very remarkable 14th-cent. capitals of the two W. piers, on N. and S. human heads and shoulders; on S. with arms interlocked; on N. with arms thrust out at the elbows; (2) the three tower arches opening into the nave and aisles are of the second half of the 15th cent.; (3) the Norm. font with a bowl with rude acanthus ornament, and with a band of shells and beads; (4) the altar tomb, S. side of sanctuary, to Anne English (1565), with three well-preserved brasses of a mother, daughter, and grand-daughter. The tower is Dec.

Maids' Moreton

[B.2]

so called from two ladies of the Peyvor family who are supposed to have founded the present church in the 15th cent.—is a village standing on high ground to the NE. of Buckingham. The church is one of the most important in the county. It is characterized by individuality and harmony of treatment, and is an admirable example of Perp. architecture still untouched. The W. tower is especially noticeable, as Sir Gilbert Scott said, 'of admirable and unique design', having two-light windows deeply recessed and divided by a kind of angular pier. The arch has rich flowers for the caps. The W. doorway is admirable; the N. porch is fan vaulted, as well as the vestry. Note the windows—the E. window later than the others, the sedilia, with finely carved canopies,

and divided by clustered columns, the Norm. font and the rood screen and the modern brasses (1890)—to the two maids of Morton in old matrices. Note also the remains of mural paintings in the chancel, at the back of the beautiful sedilia, the latter (16th cent.) are of the Last Supper.

Marlow, Great (Domesday, Merlawe, from mer=a marsh law or low=a mound) (Pl.38) [C.6]

was probably a town of some importance from a very early date. We know of a bridge being in existence at the beginning of the 14th cent., and this convenience to wayfarers would tend to make Marlowe a local centre. The present suspension bridge, a familiar object to generations of lovers of the Thames, was erected in 1832. It was designed by William Tierney Clark, who also designed Hammersmith Bridge, as well as other suspension bridges, notably one over the Danube at Budapest.

The church, close to the river, is a modern building of no architectural merit, though the spire, seen at a distance, has some picturesqueness by the water's side. The mediaeval church suffered badly during the Civil War; and there are records of the 'throwing up of bulwarks about the church' and the quartering of soldiers actually in the building! (See an item in the church accounts, 'Paid for cleaning of ye church after the soldiers lay in it'.) It is worth while, however, to look into the church, for on the W. wall, close to entrance, is a monument to Sir Miles Hobart, who was killed on Holborn Hill, 1632. The event is commemorated by a little bas relief below the monument, depicting a coach with off-hind wheel broken and horses careering down a hill. On the W. wall of vestry is a monument to Katherine Willoughby (d. 1597), which is of the familiar 16th-cent. style—a father and mother kneeling and facing each other, and the children in gradation of height behind. It is noticeable for the colouring, which has either been very well preserved or replaced since the original erection of the monument by William Willoughby, husband of above. In either case, however, it is an interesting specimen of the monumental art of the age. In the churchyard is buried John Richardson, the celebrated showman, referred to by Gilbert in *Patience*. He died in 1836. In the vestry is a portrait of a black and white spotted negro boy, who died in 1812, aged eight. This boy was purchased by Richardson for a thousand guineas and was exhibited by him in the show.

Marlow is one of those small pleasant Thames-side towns

which have a family resemblance one to the other. The main street, as at Henley, runs up from the river, and at Market Square branches E. and W. At the corner is the former Crown Hotel, a fine 18th-cent. building facing down the main street, which has been mutilated for conversion into Messrs. Woolworth's premises. The Market House, adjoining, now the Crown Inn, dates from 1807, but its proportions have been spoilt by the arcades having been filled in. St. Peter's Street, West Street, and the High Street all contain good 18th-cent. and some earlier frontages. Shelley lived during the year 1817 at a house, now called Shelley House, on the N. side of West Street, and in his rambles about the Quarry Woods and during the hours he passed moored in his boat, composed the *Revolt of Islam*. A little beyond Shelley's house is the Borlase School, founded in 1624, which is well worthy of notice.

There are a number of important houses in Marlow. The old vicarage, in St. Peter's Street (which formerly led to the old timber bridge across the Thames) retains its great hall with 14th-cent. stone traceried windows, with later work. Marlow Place, now in too close juxtaposition to the Odeon Cinema, is said to have been built for George II, when Prince of Wales, and was used by him for some time after. It is to be associated with the work of Thomas Archer. A branch of the Royal Military Academy, which was established at Remnantz, another fine Marlow house, in 1802, having been moved from High Wycombe, used these premises.

Harleyford Manor, above Marlow, is a conspicuous object on a delightful side stream of the Thames between Temple and Hurley Locks. The sober and time-coloured red brick harmonizes agreeably with the fine timber which forms the background. The house, which is placed on an artificial mound, and was built in 1755 from designs by Sir Robert Taylor, is now used as a country club.

Widmer is on the left of the main road from Great Marlow to Stokenchurch. There are the remains of an ancient chapel with a crypt 38 by 18 ft. Here was formerly the manor-house of Widmer. The lords of the manor were the Knights Templars, then the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This fact accounts for the presence of such an elaborate chapel. The little building has remains of good Dec. window tracery, though the main structure is of the 13th cent. The adjoining farm-house is mainly of the 17th cent., but has some re-used 15th-cent. materials in parts.

Marlow, Little

[C.6]

is a small and attractive village at a dead end, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Thames, below Great Marlow. It can be reached from the river by a footpath about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above the boathouses at Bourne End. The church has a good deal of interesting detail and is on the edge of the meadows. It was restored in 1902. In the chancel are some good E.E. details and windows, and in the nave Perp. insertions. Note the lofty tower arch (14th cent.) and the plain Norm. font and a brass on an altar tomb to Nichol Ledewich (1430) on S. side of chancel, who rebuilt much of the structure. There are some fragments of old glass.

On the E. side of the church is the manor-house, the back part of which is early 17th cent.

Close to Bourne End, adjoining the Abbey Farm, once stood the Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary de Fontibus de Merlawe, which was in existence in 1228, and was therefore probably founded in the 12th cent. It was a small house. Excavations of the foundations have shown that it consisted of a church on the W. On the S. were the domestic buildings, with a cloister of the same length as the nave of the church, and to the E. of this the dormitory, with a chapter-house intervening between it and the church.

Marsh Gibbon

[A.3]

is a picturesque village with 16th- and 17th-cent. cottages beneath large elms among large, open meadows. Marsh, or Merse, can be traced as far back as Edward the Confessor, for the charter by which he dedicated Islip, in Oxfordshire, to Christ and St. Peter to the Abbey of Westminster, he also gave one hide at Mersce. At the Domesday Survey the Earl of Morton held a manor in Merse, which he bestowed on the monks of Grestein in Normandy. On the suppression of the foreign or 'alien' monasteries the De la Poles obtained the manor, and in 1441 bestowed it on the hospital of Ewelme, and since 1605 it has belonged, with Ewelme, to the University of Oxford. The name of Gibbon, or Gibwen, was derived from that of a family who held lands in Merse in the reign of King John. Another manor was at the Domesday Survey held by Wm. Fitz-Ansculf, under whom the former Saxon owner held it as his subfeudatory. A second manor-house (17th cent.), called Westbury, is still to be seen at the W. end of the village.

The church is at the N. end of the village, and is an interesting building with nave, chancel, aisles. The N. aisle and pillars were added when the church was restored in 1881.

The S. transept or Ickford Chapel has a fine Perp. window; the roof of the nave is of the same style, but there are remains of a much older building, such as the EE. foliage in the capitals of some of the pillars. The foliage on the NE. pillar of aisle is remarkable—large lilies between which have been heads; the chancel is EE. Note in N. wall a stone coffin with a floriated cross (late 13th cent.). The tower has been rebuilt with the old materials. In the churchyard is the lower part of a cross (15th cent.). The manor-house, opposite the church, with its high gables and chimneys, is a delightful picture and an excellent example of a 17th-cent. domestic building. It still contains several interesting details, the staircase being especially notable.

Marsh and Kimble Wick

[C.5]

Hamlets of Kimble parish.

Marston, North

[B.3]

is a large village stretching along the brow of some rising ground overlooking the low-lying fields to the westward. There are some picturesque old cottages and an inn with the unique sign, 'The Armed Yeoman'. The very fine church once contained a shrine in honour of John Schorne, or Shorne, who is often given the courtesy title of Sir or Master, bestowed upon the mediaeval clergy. He was rector of North Marston from 1290 until his death about 1314, having previously been the incumbent at Monks Risborough. During his time at North Marston he became renowned for his great piety and miraculous power. One source states that 'his knees became horny from the frequency of his prayers'. His blessing of a local spring or well (which still exists, though now covered over) is supposed to have endowed the water with miraculous healing properties, and the water was so used for many centuries. Until fairly recent years the well was one of the main sources of water supply for the village and was supposed to have particularly beneficial effects in cases of gout and rheumatism and for affections of the eye. The act for which John Schorne is most remembered is the peculiar one of having imprisoned the devil in a boot (an allusion to his healing powers over the gout, one suspects), which gave rise to the verse:

'Master John Schorne,
That blissed man borne
Who conjured the Devil into a boot.'

After his death, miracles were performed and he acquired the reputation of a saint. Representations of him, with a

halo (he was actually never canonized or even beatified) occur on rood screens as far distant as Norfolk and Suffolk. There was great resort to his shrine, which seems to have been set up about the middle of the 14th cent. in a chapel at the E. end of the S. aisle of the parish church, where there was a statue of the 'Saint', in one of the two niches remaining. Lead pilgrims' badges showing the 'Saint' and his boot have been found in London. His cult became so widespread and the offerings at his shrine so great, that the Dean and Canons of Windsor (then and still the owners of the advowson of North Marston) sought, and obtained, licence from Pope Sixtus V in 1478 to remove the shrine and relics to St. George's Chapel, Windsor. They were transferred in 1481. Among the entries in the building accounts are the following: 'Item for making and carving thirty feet of crests, thirty feet of trayles, eight lintels for the enterclose of the chapel of Master John Schorne.'

The church, one of the most interesting in the county, has a W. tower, nave with aisles, S. porch, and chancel. The tower is Perp., the N. aisle EE. with dog-tooth ornamentation, the S. aisle Dec. with some curious capitals. The S. porch is good plain Dec. The chancel is an extremely complete specimen of Perp. architecture, and is the great feature of the church. The exterior has all the usual Perp. characteristics in windows, pinnacles, battlements, and buttresses. Observe especially the remarkable gargoyles on N. side. On the S. side of chancel are fine sedilia and a good three-light window. Note a squint ornamented with the four-leaved flower. On the N. wall of chancel a curious monument should be noticed—merely a hand pointing downwards, and around it the dry words, 'He lise dust downe thare', referring to John Virgin, Minister of North Marston, who died in 1694. A little to the W., on the same wall, is a graceful inscription (1613) by Dr. John Saunders in memory of his wife, which begins:

'This small monument,
Though nor my skill, nor prayers, could save
Thyself, grave matron, from the grave,
Yet he take care thy virtues lie
Engraven in brass, and never die.'

There is a well-preserved monumental brass to Richard Sanders, 1602. Note the Perp. font.

The removal of the organ from the E. end of the S. aisle has revealed the full beauty of the mid-14th-cent. work there.

There is a splendidly Dec. E. window with built-in flanking niches, elaborate piscina, squint opening to nave, and small recess near the floor. This leaves little doubt that here was the original shrine of John Schorne, before the removal of his relics to St. George's Chapel, Windsor, in the 15th cent. It is possible that the unusually fine chancel at Marston was built out of offerings at the shrine as a sort of compensation for losing the relics of their local saint. At any rate, masons' marks on the stonework associate it with a group of masons touring the South Midlands whose work also appears at Eton, Windsor, and Hillesden.

Marsworth

[C.4]

Church has some interesting features. These are (1) the EE. tower; (2) the Perp. windows of nave (the E. window is modern); (3) the Perp. font; (4) the 14th-cent. carved base of modern pulpit; (5) a late and remarkable pictorial brass on N. end of altar tomb, probably that of Edmund West, Serjeant-at-Law (d. 1618), depicting a curious death-bed scene; (6) a fine brass to Mary West (1606), with a chrysom child; and (7) two daughters of Nicholas West. These are in floor of S. aisle at E. end. The turret outside the N. wall of nave, once enclosing spiral steps to a rood loft, is curious. The moat of the old manor-house of the Wests is a little to the N. of the church.

Meadle

[B.5]

Hamlet of Monks Risborough, of which there are several in the low-lying water-meadows towards the Thame. An old Quaker meeting-house was situated here; and there are several good farms in isolated situations.

Medmenham

[B.6]

lies on a level piece of ground under a sharp break in the Chilterns, and which begins 3 m. above Great Marlow, where the chalk cliffs are visible above the Thames. The parish contains much lovely country, with wooded hills and deep valleys. The church is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the river. The older part of the village is grouped near it; from this point to the river are a number of new villas, among which a few old and picturesque cottages remain. On a steep spur of high ground above the church, once the site of a castle, a farmhouse is boldly placed, and nearby is an Iron Age hill fort. On the river bank stood Medmenham Abbey, a daughter-house of Woburn Abbey, founded in 1204, by Isabel de Bolebec, whose father-in-law held the manor at the Domesday Survey. In the beginning of the 16th cent. the abbey was annexed to Bisham Abbey on the opposite side of the

river. The abbey has totally disappeared, but the house looks picturesque enough viewed from the river. The ruins that are visible date from the 18th cent., but contain old material. Medmenham Abbey has attained a kind of celebrity, because in the middle of the 18th cent. it was selected as the scene of their revelries by a group of fashionable men who called themselves the Monks of Medmenham Abbey. Their form of amusement was at once profane and childish, mimicking, as they did, religious rites in their social meetings, but the character of their gatherings was probably neither better nor worse than that of others before or since, though from the position of those who took part in them they have achieved a disagreeable fame. Wilkes, Sir Francis Dashwood, afterwards Lord le Despenser, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lord Bute's Government, Paul Whitehead, the dramatist, and Charles Churchill, the poet, were the leading spirits at the Medmenham meetings. Wilkes, who was the youngest of the party, was probably the first in the revelries, and on one occasion let loose among them a baboon 'made up' as Satan. For an account of this extraordinary *coterie*, the reader is referred to Ronald Fuller's book, *Hell-Fire Francis* (Chatto & Windus, 1939). See also under West Wycombe.

The church has little architectural beauty or interest. Note the Norm. work in inner doorway of S. porch, also the panels (17th cent.) of the pulpit, which, with considerable reason, have been regarded as the work of a Dutch artist.

Mentmore

[C.4]

stands on the summit of a hill with charming views. Nothing can be more delightful than the view to the N. on an autumn morning with the foreground of yellowing elms. The village is grouped about the S. side of the hill-top; on the W. are the house and gardens of Mentmore House. If the place is approached from Cheddington, the road, after crossing the railway to Aylesbury, runs through part of the Park. The village is not particularly picturesque. The church is at the NW. corner of the hill. While agreeable enough among all its pleasant surroundings, it has architecturally not much interest. The chancel is altogether modern, and many alterations have taken place from time to time. A set of wall-paintings was unhappily destroyed. The most interesting details to note are the inverted E.E. capitals which now form the base of the pillars of the nave arcades, rebuilt c. 1590, with unusual, embattled capitals, and the carved angels (15th cent.) in the roof. Mentmore House was built by Baron Meyer de Rothschild, and commenced in 1851. The architects

were Sir J. Paxton and Mr. G. H. Stokes. Near the house is a large statue of Favonius, the winner of the Derby in 1871. It now belongs to the Earl of Rosebery. The best view of the house is from the fields between the Cheddington Crossing and the road from Wingrave to Marston Gate Station, through which a bridle-way runs.

Middle Green

[D.7]

Part of Langley Marish, with encroaching modern development.

Mill End

[B.6]

The most southerly part of Hambleton parish, with a good group of farms and outbuildings, and the mill that gives it its name, on the Thames. At Yewden Farm, the Roman house was found in 1910.

Milton Keynes

[C.2]

is a pretty village with many white-walled, heavily thatched cottages, some of the 17th cent. One of the best is the picturesque Swan Inn. The church is one of considerable interest, and with Olney it forms the best example of the Dec. style in this county, but it is less formal and academic than Olney, and is full of vigour and individuality. The term 'Decorated' is here hardly appropriate, for the work is of the plainest description. It is simple in design, having a nave, chancel, tower at the NE. corner of nave forming a transept, and a N. chapel. It is throughout Dec. and unquestionably the S. doorway and porch are the best and most typical details. The porch has open sides, divided by short columns with tracery in the heads. The inner doorway is richly decorated, between the arch and drip moulding, with a charming line of ball flowers. No description can do sufficient justice to the grace and beauty of this delightful work. The sedilia and piscina in S. wall of chancel are admirable and of the same character as the porch. On the S. wall of the chapel a niche should be noted, with ball-flower ornaments which are very uncommon in Bucks. The S. cornice is also noticeable with gargoyles and quaint animals, as are the windows of the tower, for an entirely Dec. tower is rare in this county.

The font is modern, but the old font, a plain bowl on an octagonal stem, 15th cent., will be found by the side of the W. walk leading to the S. porch. On the S. wall of chancel is the well-preserved brass effigy of Adam Babyngton, Rector, 1427.

Milton Keynes (Domesday, Midveltone) owes its second name to the De Catrines or Keynes, who held the manor in

the 13th cent. Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, who is so inseparably connected with the politics of the reign of Queen Anne, was born here in 1662, his father being rector from 1657 to 1693.

Missenden, Great

[C.5]

is a small town extending for $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on each side of the road from London to Aylesbury. To-day it still answers to Leland's (d. 1552) description: 'A praty thoroughfare, but no market-town'; for it is a quiet, old-fashioned place, with no actual picturesque feature, but reposeful with its unostentatious dwellings grouped below the beechwoods which cover the adjoining hill-side. It has now spread considerably on the surrounding hills. It was just such a place as, in the Middle Ages, was the favourite situation for a religious house—the meadows, the stream at hand, the not distant woodland, where fuel could be obtained and hogs be fed. Thus it is not surprising that in 1133 an Abbey for Black Canons was founded by William de Missenden, which became one of the largest and most important in the county. A modern house, now a Teachers' Training College, belonging to the County Council, occupies the site of the old religious house and incorporates small parts of the conventual buildings.

The parish church outside of, and on the E. side of, the town, is situated among pleasant trees, just at the edge of the abbey park, somewhat above the level of the town, which it overlooks. It is an attractive building of some interest. It is structurally a Dec. building with a W. tower, a nave, two aisles, chancel, and transept. Perp. windows have been placed in it, which are large and heavy for the original building. It was well restored in 1900. The interior is spacious and the Dec. pillars and arches of the nave are good. On the N. wall of chancel is a beautiful Dec. arcade, heavily restored, opposite is a good EE. priest's door. The Norm. font, plain, but with the characteristic cable ornament, indicates the early origin of the church, which was no doubt, contemporaneous with the building of the abbey. On S. wall of S. transept is a curious brass showing the bust of a woman with plaited hair rising from a conventional arrangement of foliage. It does not seem to have any connexion with the brass inscription beneath it. In the W. corner of same wall is a much earlier brass effigy of a woman, probably that referred to by Haines as a lady (c. 1450). From the W. end of the churchyard a footpath leads across the park to the London road, affording views of Missenden Abbey.

Missenden, Little (Pl. 39)

[C.5]

lies just to the W. of the road from Amersham to Aylesbury; the old road makes a semicircle from it and rejoins it, after passing through the village, which is particularly attractive, with the little Misbourne flowing (when not dried up!) through the adjacent meadows. The church is small and may incorporate parts of a Saxon church. It has a tower, aisled nave, chancel, and N. chapel. There is a 13th-cent. E. window of three lights, the details of which should be noticed. A quaint dormer window has been placed in the S. side of roof. There is also a Norm. font of Aylesbury type. The building, though of plain architectural detail, is of considerable interest. In 1931 a remarkable series of wall-paintings was discovered, and with the assistance of the vicar, the Rev. W. H. Davis, and Mr. Clive Rouse, these have been preserved under the direction of Professor E. W. Tristram. The work ranges from the late 12th cent. (masonry pattern and design on the chancel arch), through the 13th cent. (scroll band, S. wall, crucifixion on nave pier, decorative work in N. chapel, etc.) to the early 14th cent., when the great figure of St. Christopher and the scenes from the life of St. Catherine were painted. Later work is on the chancel arch, above, and is seen in the elaborate series of texts. On the floor of chancel is the remnant of a brass to John Style (1613). The manor-house, adjoining the churchyard, is a pleasant, mellow building of late 16th- and 17th-cent. date, and contains a fine staircase. There are other good small houses in the village (Town Farm, the old mill, etc., etc.).

Monks Risborough, see Risborough

Moor End

[B.6-C.6]

Remote and scattered district in Lane End parish, with open boggy commons and high-standing woods.

Moulsoe

[C.2]

lies on high ground close to the Bedfordshire border, 1 m. to NE. of the main road from Woburn to Newport Pagnell and the north. The church is one of some size, having W. tower, nave, two aisles, and chancel. It now possesses chiefly the characteristics of the Dec. style, but there is a good deal of modern work, such as the E. window, but some of the other windows are of good Dec. design.

In the floor of N. aisle are the brass effigies of a man and woman, without an inscription. They probably represent Richard Ruthall and his wife (c. 1528).

Mursley

[C.3]

was in the 13th cent. of more importance than to-day. It is

an instance of a place which from a small country town in the Middle Ages has fallen to a small village. It is full of picturesque black-and-white thatched cottages, built late in the 16th and early in the 17th cents. Note especially one, at S. end of village, with an old yew tree behind it. The church stands on high ground about the middle of the village on the W. side of the road. With nave, two aisles, and chancel, it is chiefly Dec., having pillars and windows, small, but good, of that style. The monuments to the Fortescues are the most interesting part of the church. On the N. side of the chancel, in a recess, is a monument to Sir John Fortescue, a man and wife kneeling opposite each other. The figures are in alabaster and painted. Below, on a black marble slab, is a brass effigy of Cecily, his wife, dressed in rich brocade, who died in 1570, probably placed here before the other monument. On the opposite side is a monument to Sir Francis Fortescue, son of Sir John, which was erected by his wife, though she is also depicted. It is in the same style as the other and is remarkable for the skill and delicacy of the sculpture.

A mile across the fields are two modest farm-houses, standing on the spot where, about 1590, Sir John Fortescue (1538-1607) built one of the finest country-houses of the time. It cost £33,000, equivalent to £120,000 at the present day. Here Queen Elizabeth was entertained, and afterwards her successor. Sir John, who was a second cousin once removed of the Queen, and who from his considerable learning was selected to superintend her studies, was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1589, and holding that important and lucrative office was able to amass a great fortune. For a long time, too, he represented Buckinghamshire in the House of Commons, and for many years held a considerable place in the Government. He was the friend of Burleigh and Bacon, of Raleigh and Essex, and enjoyed in a high degree the confidence of Elizabeth. He was succeeded in his estates by his son, Sir Francis, whose son, Sir John Fortescue, died in 1658. The title became extinct in 1729. In the proximity of the present buildings there remain the terraces and fish ponds of the stately mansion, which has now disappeared. It was called Salden House, and was almost wholly pulled down in 1732-43. But Salden House Farm retains part of the original building of the late 16th cent.

Naphill

[C.5]

Outlying district in Hughenden with chapels and modern

development. Until recent times this area must have been very lovely and isolated.

Nash

[B.2]

is a village in the high district between Buckingham and Bletchley. The church is a small modern building erected in 1857 from designs by G. E. Street, R.A. A few good houses and cottages remain.

Newport Pagnell (Pl. 41)

[C.2]

consists of the old part, the High Street, and some new streets between the W. end of the High Street and the railway station. The church stands at the top of the High Street in a high position on the N. side, and as seen from across the River Ouse is very attractive. It is large, with nave, two aisles, chancel, and W. tower, Perp., and N. and S. porches. It is a lofty, well-proportioned church, but spoiled in the interior by galleries. Much poor Perp. work in the windows has detracted from the character of the building, the two best features of which are the porches. The S. doorway and porch have much rich Dec. work; the N. porch, with a room over, is ribbed, but is imperfect. The roofs of the nave and aisles (late 15th cent.) are remarkable. There is a brass effigy of a man on the door of the stair turret. On the S. side of the churchyard is a tomb to J. A. Hamilton, with inscription by Cowper (*c.* 1740).

A castle formerly existed here and remains of the mound are to be seen in the cemetery. This was a strategic position at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Lovatt.

Newport Pagnell is an ancient town. It is said that it belonged to one Ulf, a Thane in the reign of Edward the Confessor, but when the Norman Survey was made, William Fitz-Ansculf, a powerful baron, owned the manor, and in the reign of William Rufus Fulc Paganel, from whose family the town derives its second name, was in possession, and founded Tickford Priory in the parish of Newport Pagnell. This was a Cluniac cell subject to Marmoutier, which had a troubled history, until, in the reign of Henry IV, it was subjected to the Priory of Holy Trinity, York; in 1524 its revenues were appropriated by Wolsey for the purposes of his College at Oxford. During the Civil War, Newport Pagnell was of great strategic importance. The occupation of this town by the Royalists, in 1643, cut the communication between London and the North, and Essex marched with seven London regiments and forced the Royalists to abandon the town. A strong Parliamentary garrison replaced them, and here, in 1644, Cromwell's eldest surviving son, Oliver,

died of smallpox. The garrison, under Sir Samuel Luke, the original of Butler's *Hudibras*, successfully repulsed many Royalist attacks, and the town remained strongly fortified for two years and nine months. There were formerly two mediaeval hospitals in the town, both long since vanished. The modern building of Queen Anne's Hospital retains an inscription on a beam, 1615, from the old house. The Swan Inn, the vicarage, and one or two other houses have good frontages.

Newport Pagnell forms a good starting-point from which to visit the numerous and interesting churches which are to be found between it and the borders of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

Newton Blossomville

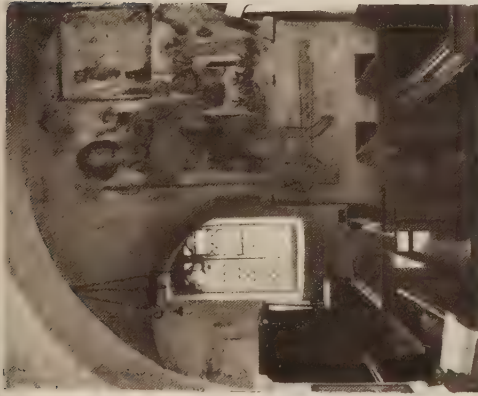
[C.1]

is a small village on S. side of the valley of the Ouse, the slow waters of which touch the N. side of the churchyard. This proximity to the river gives an individuality to this church among the reeds and mist and water-birds. It is architecturally attractive, with a nave, and N. aisle extending the length of the church, W. tower (Perp.) with a turret, and S. porch. Some herring-bone masonry in the nave walls indicate probably an 11th-cent. date. About 1350 the chancel was lengthened and widened; and a N. aisle added. Late in the 14th cent. the N. chapel was built, replacing a 13th-cent. structure; and early in the 15th cent. the tower and porch were added. Nearby is a house, formerly the manor-house, with the date 1580. At Domesday Survey, Newton (Newnton) was part of Lavendon, but in 1203 a family of Blossomville, or Blosseville, were owners of the land here, and from them it took its present name. A foot and horse way—practicable, but not agreeable, for bicycles—leads past the W. end of the church, and crossing the water leads through Cold Brayfield Park and some fields to the main road between Turvey (Beds.) and Olney.

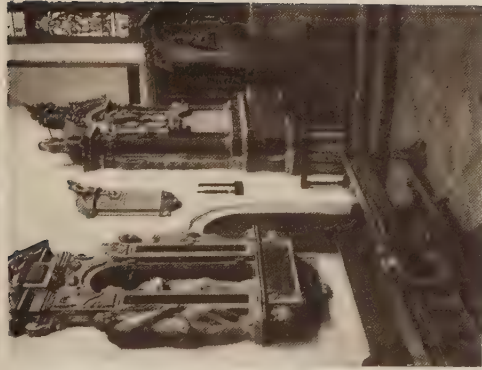
Newton Longville (Domesday, Newnton)

[C.3]

the second name being derived from Longueville in Normandy, Walter Giffard having endowed an abbey there with the manor of Newnton. This village is large, with some noticeable 17th-cent. cottages, and a manor-house (16th cent.), with dovecot, near the church. The little 16th-cent. smithy formerly standing at the cross-roads was most wickedly demolished in 1935. The church is a building of much interest. The piers are late Norm. with grotesque figures on N. side and hollow mouldings round the arches, and the font, with 17th-cent. cover, is of the same period,



39 LITTLE MISSENDEN CHURCH: FOURTEENTH-CENTURY WALL-PAINTINGS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER AND THE LIFE OF ST. CATHERINE



40 MONUMENTS IN AMERSHAM CHURCH



41 NEWPORT PAGNELL

re-cut; it has the cable ornament with leaf and flower designs, and is supported by eight small columns. The chancel arch has good late Norm. capitals and round shafts, reset in the 14th cent. The windows are Perp., the E. window being late in the style. A good deal of work was done by New College, Oxford, about 1442, when the Perp. windows were probably inserted. On the piscina are the arms of this college. On the large pier, which is at the NE. angle of the S. aisle, is a recess in which was at one time the effigy of a knight in chain armour. Only the head now remains. On the N. wall of chancel is a modern brass to W. Groyn, Rector, 1479–1504, who was the first teacher of Greek at Oxford. In the S. wall of S. aisle is a niche, with the apparently original door. The woodwork of the roof should not be overlooked, and that in the porch is striking in its massiveness. On the E. wall outside is a rude figure of St. Faith, to whom the church is dedicated. Its date is probably 14th cent.

North Crawley, see Crawley, North [D.1]

North Marston, see Marston, North [B.3]

Notley Abbey [B.4]

Among the religious houses of Buckinghamshire which existed before the Reformation, Notley Abbey was, with Missenden, one of the most important. It was founded by Walter Giffard, first Earl of Buckingham, for Augustinian Canons, about 1162, and until the dissolution of the monasteries it grew in consideration and wealth. It was endowed from time to time by additional lands in Bucks. and in the neighbouring counties, and at the accession of Edward IV the Priory of Chetwode was added to it. The abbey was used in the 15th and 16th cents. as a place of correction for erring monks from other houses, notably Missenden, where there were some grave scandals. The site is in the Thame valley N. of the Thame-Aylesbury road, and little now remains but the beautiful EE. corbel table, which forms one end of a barn, and which is illustrated by both Parker and Rickman, and the house which now bears the name of Notley Abbey. This, though much modernized, incorporates part of the W. range of the claustral buildings (13th cent.), and most of the Abbot's Lodging (or possibly guest-house) of 15th- and 16th-cent. date, including the little octagonal stair turret. Excavations undertaken during the years 1930–3 revealed the E. walk of the cloister floored with 14th-cent. encaustic tiles, also the bases of two of the central tower piers of the church, the E. processional doorway, and part of the chapter-house. Note also the square monastic dovecot to the N. of the house.

Oakley

[A.4]

is attractively nestled at the foot of Brill Hill, on the edge of the flat country, close to Ot Moor. This fact is recorded in an old local rhyme (see Brill).

The church has some interesting features. The tower is Dec., with a bold stair turret at the SE. angle rising above the tower with a finial. The S. transept has good Dec. windows. On the outside is an unusual sepulchral recess, the only one in Bucks. with a cinquefoiled arch. The S. doorway is Dec.; inside, the nave arches are examples of Trans., as is the font.

Olney (Pl. 43, 44)

[C.1]

lies in the N. of the county, in the flat, midland country of the Ouse Valley. Around it are gathered memories of Cowper (see also Weston Underwood), as about Stoke Poges linger those of Gray. Olney is to-day much as it was in the middle of the 18th cent. The church by the water, the compact rectory, Cowper's substantial and plain house in the market-square, even the little tiled summer-house in the garden behind it, remind us of Olney as it was a century and a half ago. In 1767 Cowper arrived at Olney; about eighteen years later (1786) he moved to Weston Underwood, a place as familiar to him as Olney itself, and nine years afterwards he finally left the county. Few men whose home has been in one place for so long a time have remained in it so much as Cowper stayed at Olney and Weston. It is unquestionably from its association with Cowper and his friends—the gentle Mary Unwin, the severe John Newton, Lady Hesketh, and Lady Austin, with the microcosm of 18th-cent. life, which is imperishably preserved in *The Task*—that Olney has an abiding interest.

In the market-square Cowper's red-brick house, now the Cowper Museum (admission one shilling; closed on Sundays) will be noticed at the SE. side. It has two doors, as when Cowper and Mrs. Unwin lived in it, but they only occupied the western half. 'You have not forgotten,' Cowper writes to Mrs. Unwin's son in 1781, 'that the building we inhabit consists of two mansions.' The entrance passage and small room on the right formed Cowper's hall: on the left is the parlour—his favourite seat in it was at the second window. The back of the vicarage can be seen, and one can appreciate quite well how, to make intercourse more easy between Mr. Newton at the vicarage and Cowper and Mrs. Unwin in the Square, a communication was opened between the two houses. The vicarage itself is interesting as an example

of domestic architecture of the 18th cent., for the old house was almost entirely rebuilt in 1767. In a corner of the garden is still the famous summer-house. It was in this secluded little summer-house that most of *The Task*, as well as *John Gilpin*, was written.

At the S. end of the town is the church, which stands close to the bank of the Ouse:

‘Slow-winding through the level plain
Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o’er.’

On a summer evening the delicate mists, the tranquil river, and beyond it on the high ground across the valley the tower of Emberton rising from the elms, are a pleasant sight. The church contains important 14th-cent. detail and is one of the few in Bucks. with a spire, which rises from a cornice of masks and flowers, and has octagonal pillars at the angles. The whole building is entirely in the Dec. style and a good example of its earlier and more reserved manner. The tower and spire should be particularly noticed, as well as the range of windows of c. 1330 in the chancel, with different tracery. Note also a fine moulded cornice consisting of grotesque heads and foliated bosses upon the exterior of chancel.

A quaint custom survives upon Shrove Tuesday. The church bell rings as a signal for competing housewives to start frying their pancakes. Another bell is the signal for them to start a race through the town to the church. The winner is usually rewarded with a kiss from the vergers.

Cowper’s oak—the Yardley oak of the poem—

‘Of girth enormous, with moss-cushioned root,’

is a pleasant object for a walk. It is in Yardley Forest, which is within the borders of Northamptonshire. The main road to Northampton must be followed for 2 m., and then a road on the left taken which brings one through Yardley Chase to the old hollow oak. A shorter and pleasanter way is to take the path from the close called the Pighkle. To reach it go down Spring Lane which joins the market-place just NW. of the Bull Hotel. This path runs nearly parallel with the road from Olney to Weston. It leads to the height which Cowper used to call the cliff—‘the cliff is no cliff, nor at all like one, but a beautiful terrace sloping gently down to the Ouse’. The path presently crosses over the railway, then passes the farm-house of Hungry Hall, and so to Kilnwick Wood, and presently the oak is reached. A mile distant, close to the old-fashioned farm-house of Chase Farm, is

another but sound tree. This is the oak, which in Cowper's time was called Judith, which he mentions in his correspondence. It is interesting to note that from a memorandum found among Cowper's correspondence this tree measured in his time 28 ft. 5 in. in girth, and now it is 32 ft.; thus it has increased about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in a century and a half. To-day, by the way, it is called Gog, and the old tree near it Magog.

Oving

[B.3]

is a high-standing village of considerable charm looking over a fine expanse of pastures to the W., and to the E. over the more undulating land towards Winslow. The church is at the W. end of the village. It is a small but interesting building with a nave, S. aisle, small transept (modern), chancel, and W. tower. The S. porch is early Dec. The chancel, with a three-light window, is a good example of EE. architecture applied to a small country church. It has a Perp. screen. In the S. aisle is a large recess for a tomb of Dec. character. Notice fragment of painting upon E. wall of nave, representing Christ surrounded by various tools—one of the interesting group of 'warning' pictures; in this case one to Sabbath breakers (15th cent.).

There is an earthwork of uncertain type behind the church and the Black Boy Inn, from which splendid views as far as Buckingham can be obtained.

Owlswick

[B.5]

Hamlet of Monks Risborough.

Padbury

[B.3]

lies on the main road from Buckingham to Aylesbury and contains some interesting half-timbered 17th-cent. cottages. The church has some good Dec. windows on S. side of chancel; the E. window is Perp. and the chancel arch Trans. There are low-side windows on both N. and S. sides of chancel. The circular windows of the N. clerestory (c. 1330) are remarkable, also the remains of paintings on N. wall, representing a wheel of the Deadly Sins, two St. Catherine subjects (behind the organ in N. aisle), and remains of subject-matter, probably a St. Christopher, farther west.

Penn (Pl. 46)

[C.6]

from its position (567 ft.) and associations takes a foremost place among the villages of the county. Though approached without any abruptness it stands in a commanding position above the surrounding country. To the SW. is the valley of the Thames, the horizon broken by the Berkshire Hills, in the opposite direction a mass of woodland, with openings here and there of cultivated land. The name has frequently



42 WEST WYCOMBE VILLAGE



43 OLNEY MARKET PLACE WITH COWPER'S HOUSE



44 OLNEY CHURCH ACROSS THE OUSE



45 HARTWELL, ST. MARY'S CHURCH:
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY 'GOTHICK'

been regarded as the Celtic word for a headland, which is so frequently met with in the W. of England. It is more probable, however, that it is Anglo-Saxon penn=an enclosure, which would point to the spot as an open ground surrounded by forest. In documents of the 12th cent. it is called Lapenne.

The church is a flint building with a nave, chancel, small S. aisle, and W. tower, the view from the top of which on a clear day is the most extensive in Bucks. Though originally built in the 13th cent., there are few features of architectural value. The roof of the nave (15th cent.) is, however, an interesting and fine example of good woodwork in a small church. An important panel painting of the Doom or Last Judgment was discovered in the roof over the chancel arch during repairs to the church in 1938. It is on sixteen oak boards, one of only six such panel paintings in England, and at the time of its discovery was on the point of being thrown away as rubbish. It was cleaned, preserved, and reassembled by Mr. E. Clive Rouse, F.S.A., who states that it is of two periods, about 1380–1400, repainted and altered late in the 15th cent.

Several interesting relics are to be seen of the successive generations which have passed away during the existence of the church—a stone coffin, probably 13th cent., in the tower some curious rhymes on boards, a large coat of arms of Queen Anne, and a font with a leaden bowl (rare).

There are several memorials of the Penn family: (1) A brass to John Penn (1597) and Ursula, his wife, the figure is now broken off at the waist. Opposite is the full-length figure of his wife; the lower part has gone. Beneath the place to which their feet extended is a group of their children. This memorial is completed by four Latin lines to the effect that burial does not separate two kindred spirits. (2) Brasses to William Penn, Esq., in armour (1638), and his wife, Martha (1635). (3) John Penn (1641) and his wife, Sarah, with effigies underneath of their ten children. We note a change which took place in men's armour in the beginning of Charles I's reign, namely, the protection of the legs by heavy jack-boots instead of jambs. (4) On a slab near is the brass effigy of Susan, wife of Sir Henry Drury, and mother of Mrs. Sarah Penn (1640). (5) An earlier brass to Elizabeth Rok (1540) represents her in her shroud, beneath which is the inscription in the unusual form of a prayer. The border is a good and rare example of ornate Renaissance tracery. In the centre of the chancel is a stone slab which marks the

grave of Roger Penn, who died unmarried in 1731, when the property passed to his sister, the wife of Sir Nathaniel Curzon, and so passed away from the Penns of Penn. There should be noted, also, the stone in the nave (W. end) which indicates the tomb of William Penn, the infant son of Thomas Penn, one of the sons of William Penn, described as 'Proprietor of Pennsylvania'—according to the parish register, others of whose grandchildren are buried in the same grave. This brings us to the debated question of the connexion between Penn and William Penn. That he considered that he was one of the family there can be no doubt, for on the monument to his father, Admiral Penn, in the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, at Bristol, he is said to have been the son of 'Giles Penn, of the Penns of Penn Lodge, in the county of Wilts., and those Penns of Penn in the county of Bucks.'; this inscription was probably written by William Penn himself. We have, however, no direct evidence of any connexion between the two families. For the history of Penn, and the descent of the manors, see *A History of the Parish of Penn*, by J. G. Jenkins, 1935. William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, is buried at Jordans (q.v.). Of the house where later generations lived no traces now remain, the manor-house having been long since replaced by a modern building.

A short distance along the road to Wycombe, on the right, is a field which is called the French School Meadow. In it there stood the house which Burke used in 1796 as a school for fatherless young French *émigrés*. He often rode or walked from Beaconsfield to see them, and the little foreigners in their military school dress, wandered about the beechwoods and lanes. After Burke's death the school was for some years supported by the Government.

Pednor

[C.5]

One of the Chartridge ridges. At Great Pednor Manor, formerly a farm, are some good late 16th-cent. mural paintings and texts.

Penn Street

[C.5]

is situated in pleasant surroundings among beechwoods on the uplands between Amersham and Penn. The handsome church dating from 1849 was designed by Benjamin Ferrey, a well-known architect of the Gothic Revival and biographer of Pugin.

Pheasant's Hill

[B.6]

Hamlet with chapel in lovely situation on the side of the Hambleden Valley.

Pitchcott

[B.3]

is a small village on a ridge with fine views across the Vale of Aylesbury. The church is small and unimportant, EE. in general character with poor Perp. windows. Notice the unusual 13th-cent. stone book-rest in the SW. window of chancel.

Pitstone (anciently Pightlesthorn)

[D.4]

is a small uninteresting village on the spurs of the Chilterns, a bleak and rather forlorn place. The position of the church, to the W. of the village, in the fields where it stands alone with the domelike eminence known as Pitstone Hill (700 ft.), which is divided from the Ivinghoe Hills by the road from Ivinghoe to Aldbury (see Guide to Herts.), forming its background, emphasizes this feeling.

The church consists of chancel, N. chapel, nave with N. aisle, W. tower, and S. porch. The windows E. and S. in the chancel are Perp. The chancel arch is of about 1240. Note also the capitals carved with 'stiff-leaf' foliage on arcade between chancel and N. chapel (see also Ivinghoe) and the piscina. The N. nave arcade is 15th cent. The tiles of the chancel (14th and 15th cent.), though much worn, are interesting examples of old designs, chiefly of four-leaved flowers. The pulpit is a good piece of Jacobean wood-carving. The font, late 12th cent., a derivative of the Aylesbury type, is the most attractive feature in the church; it is elaborate and beautiful. The ornamentation of the lower part of the circular bowl is fluted, which is divided from the upper part by a cable. Note remains of painting above chancel arch—the royal arms and tables of the Commandments, Creed, and Lord's Prayer.

Preston Bisset

[A.3]

is a long village with picturesque 17th-cent. thatched cottages each side of the road. The church is at the N. end. It has a low tower, a nave, chancel, S. aisle, and a porch, and was built on the site of a Norm. church about 1325–50. The windows are Dec., with flowing tracery, and are excellent work. Note also the 15th-cent. font and the Dec. sedilia, and the grotesque corbels of the chancel arch.

Prestwood

[C.5]

570 ft. above sea-level, has a church built in 1849. It is the centre of a high plateau full of pleasant woods and bottoms.

Princes Risborough, see Risborough

[C.5]

Quainton (Domesday, Chentone) (Pl.48, 49)

[B.3]

is an interesting village, pleasantly placed below the high grassy hills which rise above it to the NE., from which there

are extensive and delightful views towards the borders of Oxfordshire. At the top of the green are the remnants of an old cross and a farm-house built by Judge Dormer in 1723, near a yet older building, and behind the now seldom seen windmill.

The market-cross, or village-cross, probably of the 15th cent., of which the steps and part of the column only are left, is the only one of three that remains in the county so complete. Market-crosses were common in mediaeval England. Erected in a religious spirit, they became structures from which proclamations and notices were issued, and round which were gathered the buyers and sellers of the countryside. In the street to the right (E.) at the head of the green are some old cottages with thatched roofs and good early timber with brick nogging of late 15th- to late 17th-cent. date. 'Magpies', the house in which Dr. George Lipscomb, the historian of Bucks., was born and lived for many years (1773-1846), is at the top of the green on the left. Near the church is a row of almshouses built by Richard Winwood, son of Sir Ralph (see Datchet) in 1687. Nine principal gables break the roof; between each two is a smaller one, and two dignified porches with inscription and the Winwood arms relieve the length of building. The S. face is somewhat differently designed and well worth notice. The Manor of Quainton came into the possession of this Richard Winwood about 1640. His house was at Denham Lodge, to the E. of Quainton, which is one of the few completely moated houses in the county, still inhabited, and it has a small gatehouse.

The church is an interesting building, noticeable for the height of the interior, which has good arches on each side between the nave and aisles, supported by Dec. octagonal pillars. This church is a good example of Dec. work, the nave and chancel dating from c. 1340 and c. 1380 respectively. Perp. windows have been inserted in the nave; the fine S. porch is also Perp. In 1877 the whole church was heavily restored and parts rebuilt, the old materials being re-used. In the arch between the N. aisle and N. transept is the lower part of a screen, containing four compartments upon which figures of apostles or prophets are painted; it is late 15th-cent. work. The upper part of the font is of the same period.

The principal feature of the church, however, is the splendid series of monuments, especially the Renaissance works, which with those at Amersham and Chenies are among the best in the county. The following are the principal:

Chancel, S. side, brasses to Joan Plessi, c. 1350; John Lewys, Rector, 1422; Richard Iwardby, 1510. N. side: John Spence, Rector, 1485 (Processional Vestments); Margery, wife of Sir Ralph Verney and daughter of John Iwardby, 'Lorde of thys Towne', 1509. *Nave*, S. aisle: monument to Richard Brett, Rector, 163-, oriental linguist, one of the translators of the Authorized Version of the Bible; at the W. end, to Richard Winwood, 1689, founder of the Alms-houses in the village, and Anne, his wife, with life-size effigies, a work of Thomas Stayner. N. aisle: Sir Richard Pigott of Doddershall, 1635, and Anne, his wife—a large monument designed by Giacomo Leoni and carved by Rysbrack; Lettice, daughter of the Hon. Thomas Coote, 1693, probably by William Stanton; Susannah Dormer, 1672, and her husband, Sir John Dormer, 1674, at the W. end, with admirable busts and superb lettering by William Stanton of Holborn.

Relegated to the tower (almost all the monuments have been moved from their original positions) are the most impressive memorials. That on the S. side is a composite work to Fleetwood Dormer, 1638, and his son John, 1679, and another Dormer, 1696. The original work by Marshall, with modifications (according to Mrs. Esdaile) by Grinling Gibbons. Opposite is the massive and realistic monument of the Hon. Robert Dormer and his son, whose premature death in 1726 broke his father's heart, he dying in the same year. In this superb lifelike masterpiece of Roubilliac, Judge Dormer's widow is seen lamenting over her son's body.

The Piggotts lived at Doddershall (still owned by a descendant), a fine house of early 16th- and late 17th-cent. date with later additions. The rectory is a 16th-cent. house containing important panelling of this date, and a screen with coats of arms of former lords of manors in Quainton and their alliances. The staircase and panelling is of c. 1600 and c. 1700.

Quarrendon

[B.4]

This was once a place of considerable importance on account of the great house of the Lees, but all that now remains are some great earthworks, representing a system of moated defences and fishponds. Of the church, only a few low walls are left of a building that was intact a century ago.

The Lees of Quarrendon were an ancient family. Of these, Sir Henry Lee, K.G. (1530-1610), was best known. He built a new mansion and entertained Queen Elizabeth with great magnificence for two days in August 1592. Of his imposing

funeral at Quarrendon, the long procession, the banners and the chargers, one may read in a MS. in the British Museum adorned with drawings of his helmet, flags, and coffin (Add. MSS. 14417, fo. 22, p. 46). The splendid monument to Sir Henry Lee and some others were in existence up to 1830. The contrast of the forlorn ruins in the low meadows with the former glories of the place is suggestive. The ruins are reached by a cartway from Bicester Road close to the 1-m. stone from Aylesbury right hand (E.), or by a footpath near a stone bridge $\frac{1}{2}$ m. farther, or by a rough road from the Winslow Road, 1 m. from Aylesbury left (W.). On the rising ground above, to the E., are considerable traces of the Civil War entrenchments connected with the battle of Aylesbury.

Radclive

[A.2-B.2]

is agreeably grouped in the valley W. of Buckingham, round a tributary of the Ouse. The church, on N. side of the village, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the main road from Buckingham to Tingewick, is an interesting little building. It contains much old material reset. The S. doorway is Trans. It has banded shafts, foliated capitals, and a band into which a species of toothed and cable ornament is ingeniously worked. The chancel arch has foliated capitals and toothed ornament. There are fragments of 14th-cent. glass, including a Virgin and Child, and a 13th-cent. font.

Radnage

[B.5]

consists of scattered groups of cottages, one of which, known as the City, is nearly 1 m. from the church, and is delightfully placed on the verge of the Chilterns. Radnage is not mentioned in Domesday, but the manor was granted to the Knights Templars in the 12th cent. The church, striking in its original simplicity, stands with the vicarage to the W. on the side of a hill below Bledlow Ridge, and is surrounded on three sides by trees, but to the S. commands a charming and extensive view. It is a small building with a chancel, nave, central tower, and S. porch. The lower part of the tower, completely dividing nave and chancel, contains a blocked Norm. doorway, in the blocking of which is a small monolithic window. The upper stage of the tower is EE. and the E. window, piscina, walls, and arches are in the same style. Most of the other windows are good Dec. The nave has a handsome Perp. roof. There are important remains of wall-paintings of several periods. In the splays of the E. lancets, Christ in Majesty is above in centre, the Annunciation below. There is a mutilated St. Christopher on the N. wall of the nave, but the heads of both figures are visible. There are also

extensive masonry patterns and consecration crosses on both N. and S. walls of tower. In the nave are considerable remains of 16th-, 17th-, and 18th-cent. texts. There are two brasses, to William Este, his wife and children (1534) and William Syer, 'parson of Radnedg', and his wife Jane (1605). The church possesses an old wooden bier dated 1699.

This is another example of the Bucks. village with widely separated little nuclei known as 'endships'. Here we have the City (as mentioned above), Bennett End, Church End, Town End, and Sprig's Alley.

Ravenstone

[C.1]

is a small village on the side of a small grassy valley. In days gone by it was a place of some importance, for Henry III founded a priory of Augustinian Canons, which existed till the dissolution of the religious houses in the 16th cent., when the building was demolished. In 1587 Queen Elizabeth gave all the property of the late priory, which in the meantime had been granted to Cardinal Wolsey, and all the Manor of Ravenstone, to Sir 'Moyle Finch. The Finches were an unusually able family, and its fame culminated in Heneage Finch, 1621-82, second son of Sir Moyle, who became Lord Chancellor of England and Earl of Nottingham, whose splendid tomb gives importance to Ravenstone Church, which is a considerable building, with a nave, S. aisle, clerestory, and chancel, the S. aisle being prolonged to the exterior E. end, and a W. tower. The N. wall of nave is without windows. The general style internally is now EE., the pillar having a square abacus and rude foliage; but some original herring-bone rubble work in the W. wall gives evidence of an 11th-cent. date. The windows are much later, there being a fairly good Perp. window at SW. of S. aisle. The clerestory windows are of same character. The font is early 13th-cent. work; the large flat panels were probably at one time painted. The EE. sedilia and piscina and the 17th-cent. woodwork in the chancel are noteworthy. The tomb of Heneage Finch is in S. aisle at E. end. It consists of a semi-recumbent life-size figure in white marble on an oblong base, on which is a long Latin inscription, which sets forth the characteristics of the able, discreet, and upright lawyer who took so large a share in the parliamentary life of the reign of Charles II. At the NE. side of the churchyard will be observed a double row of brick almshouses for six old men and six old women. This hospital was founded by Lord Chancellor Finch, and adds to the interest of Ravenstone.

Richings Park

[D.7]

lies to the SW. of Iver. It has now become a residential suburb, adjoining Iver Railway Station. The house had some interesting associations, for it was the property in the 18th cent. of Allen, first Earl Bathurst (1684-1775), one of the famous group of noblemen and men of letters who are inseparably connected with the reign of Queen Anne. A pleasant picture of Lord Bathurst in his old age, pleasing and ready to be pleased, will be found in the third of Sterne's Letters to Eliza.

The fine mansion of Richings Park is derelict, due to war damage sustained between 1939 and 1945. The estate is largely built over.

Risborough, Monks (Domesday, Riseberg)

[C.5]

The name is derived from the fact that shortly before the year 1000 the manor was given to the church of Canterbury. At the time of the Survey it belonged to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury. An attractive place on the northern margin of the Chilterns, the village lies on the N. side of the Upper Icknield Way, and is formed of a group of delightful old cottages, some being thatched and several half-timbered, among pleasant gardens. The church is at the N. side of the village, and the rectory, a picturesque red house, at the E. side of the churchyard. The church is a fine and instructive building. On the tower are visible the marks of the pointed roof, which has been replaced by a flatter one. The only remnant of the Norm. church is the font, which is very fine, being fluted, with a flowing loop ornament round the margin. The tower at W. end is Dec., and much resembles that at Bledlow. The W. front is especially noticeable. The most important windows are Perp., for a country church remarkably fine, that in N. transept is especially good. The church has two aisles, chancel, and a N. transept. There is a fine rood screen, late 15th cent., with nine panels on which are in colours the heads of nine prophets. The remaining three were stolen by workmen many years ago. At S. side of chancel, close to communion rails, is a well-preserved brass of a priest, without an inscription, regarded as that of Robert Blundell, Rector, 1360, and at E. end of S. aisle are two half-effigies of a man and his wife (c. 1460), and at the foot of the lectern a brass showing two sons and five daughters, the remains of a larger memorial. Some old tiles by the lectern and in N. aisle should be noted, as also the remains of a Dec. niche in N. aisle. Beyond the church, which is pleasantly shaded, are seen meadows and some



46 PENN CHURCH: THE DOOM PAINTING ON OAK BOARDS



47 BRILL POST MILL



48 QUAINTON: THE VILLAGE GREEN, WITH BASE OF STONE CROSS, AND TOWER MILL IN THE BACKGROUND

picturesque farm buildings, and in the intervening field a square 16th-cent. dovecot, recently restored, having on the N. side the remains of a richly carved doorway. There is a good deal of modern housing development here. In the parish is Whiteleaf Cross (q.v.).

Risborough, Princes

[C.5]

is a small town near the break in the Chilterns, which to the SW. forms the Wycombe Valley. The manor was part of the royal demesne, and in the 13th and early part of 14th cents. it had become known as Great Risborough. In 1342 it is denominated Risborough Comitis, a name which it has since retained, and which probably arose from the fact of the connexion of the manor with the Sovereign or his family, since Henry III gave the lordship of this manor to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and it was held by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, till his death in 1300, when it reverted to the Crown. It is a pleasant little place, with a small market-house in the centre. In the street to the W. nearly opposite the church is a picturesque group of old houses. The church has a nave, two aisles and chancel, a square tower with a small steeple, which replaced one which fell in 1802 and was completely restored in 1867. It was an EE. church, and two windows on N. side of chancel show its original character, but the others are Dec. The E. window is modern. Note the piscina and sedile and two elaborate arched recesses (Dec.) in S. wall, as well as fine three-light window above, all in S. aisle. The manor-house, near the church, is the property of the National Trust, and is an interesting building of 17th- and 18th-cent. date with a fine staircase and other details. The R.C. church of St. Teresa is an interesting modern building in the Byzantine style, with a dome. Outside the town is the Experimental Laboratory of the Timber and Forest Product Research Board.

From Princes Risborough, some of the best ridges on the Chiltern scarp can be reached, leading up to Hampden, Lacey Green, Loosley Row, Windsor Hill, Pink Hill, and Whiteleaf Hill, with superb views over the Vale of Aylesbury.

Rockall End

[B.6]

Another of the numerous hamlets in Hambleden parish, nearly all of which are in good and unspoilt country, though the hamlets themselves have few features of note.

Rowsham

[C.4]

Considerable hamlet in Wingrave parish 4 m. from Aylesbury on the main road. There are one or two old houses and farms.

St. Leonards

[C.4-C.5]

is situated high up on the Chilterns. The small church, with heavy timbering at the W. end, has an aisleless nave and chancel and has been much restored throughout. It contains two fine monuments carved in chalk, an unusual material, and by an unusual artist, Nicholas Bigée, who is, according to Mrs. Esdaile, otherwise unknown. That on the N. side is to Mr. and Mrs. Wood (d. 1707), erected by their son Colonel Cornelius Wood, whose monument, with bust, cherubs, and trophies of arms (1712) is opposite. Note old piscina and sedile.

Sands

[C.5-C.6]

Considerable district in the W. of High Wycombe parish.

Saunderton

[B.5]

is 3½ m. to the N. of the railway station which bears its name and is a quiet little place. The church (rebuilt 1888-91) with the old materials) has not much architectural interest. The font, with some good though much worn work, has a circular base, cable ornament, and fluted bowl, surmounted by rude flowers, showing the very early origin of the original church. There are two EE. blocked doorways, but the character of the building is chiefly Dec. On S. wall of nave is the remnant of a brass, the half-effigy of a woman, much worn, the inscription lost, the date supposed to be about 1430.

A Roman villa discovered in a field between the church and the railway in 1936-7 was fully excavated under the auspices of the Bucks. Archaeological Society in 1938. Nothing remains above ground: but the finds are all in the Aylesbury Museum; the excavation is recorded in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XIII.

Sedrup

[B.4]

Hamlet with scattered farms and cottages round a wide green in Hartwell parish.

Seer Green

[D.6]

is a village with a modern church near the new Jordans village.

Shabbington

[A.4]

is the easternmost of a group of three low-lying villages on the Thame (see Ickford and Worminghall). The church is at the S. end of the village with an attractive view across the meadows of the Thame to the distant line of the Chilterns. The church dates originally from c. 1100 and the N. exterior walls of nave and chancel display herring-bone masonry. All the details, however, are Dec. and the tower is Perp. Note hexagonal pulpit dated 1626, 15th-cent. piscina and low-side window in chancel.

Shalstone

[A.2]

is the first of three villages which lie on the upper ground above the Ouse Valley, between Buckingham and the Northamptonshire border. The church was rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1862, and is a good example of his work. In the N. aisle is a brass effigy commemorating Dame Susan Kyngeston, 1540, the only brass in the county to a 'vowess'. In the chancel is a tablet by R. Westmacott (1852) showing some kneeling children. The manor-house is to be noted as the home of the Purefoys, who figure in the *Purefoy Letters* (see Bibliography, Eland). It is now used as a furniture store.

Shenley, or Shenley Mansell

[C.2]

is a village with two ends and no middle. Shenley Brook End—picturesque cottages and farms about a little brook—is 1 m. from Shenley Church End, where the church on a height overlooks the most important part of the village. Note in approaching the village from Brook End the almshouses of grey stone with tiled roofs, and on a tablet the date 1654. They were erected by Thomas Stafford of Tattenhoe and his son. Some of the pleasant thatched and half-timbered houses of Shenley may be older than the almshouses.

The church is interesting, though heavily restored. The tower is in the centre and there is a nave, chancel, and two aisles, with remains of transepts. The Perp. tower is now out of proportion to the rest of the building, but at one time the roofs of both nave and chancel were high-pitched and reduced the tower to its proper proportion. The turret, higher than the tower, which is rare, should be noticed. The nave and transepts are mid-12th cent. and the chancel late 12th cent., with pilasters and corbels for a vault, as at Upton and Stewkley, which was either never completed or else destroyed in a rebuilding. Note the Dec. W. doorway, with excellently preserved heads on the dripstone and windows, the side window in the same style and the beautiful windows in the chancel, in style merging from Trans. to EE. The five-light Perp. E. window is effective from the interior. In the nave, the Norm. pillars on S. side are noticeable, also the EE. font with trefoiled panels and some fine corbels. At the E. end of S. aisle, note the monument to Thomas Stafford, donor of the Almshouses (1607). It consists of his recumbent effigy in white marble, below which is that of his wife and those of several members of his family. Those holding skulls predeceased their parents. In the chancel is another interesting monument to Edmund Ashfyld, knight,

1577, and his wife—a tomb with three slender columns—one of jasper and two of porphyry. Above in a pediment, with minute ornaments, are, among others, remarkable heads of lions. The whole is more like Italian than English work.

To the W. of the village, on S. side of a lane, are some ancient earthworks, consisting of a moated mound, called the Toot, with large moated enclosures adjoining—probably mediaeval.

Sherrington

[C.1]

is a village of some size, part of which lies upon each side of the road from Olney to Newport Pagnell. It retains a number of old houses and cottages in a variety of materials: stone, brick, plaster, and timber, though, like everywhere else, the thatched roofs are gradually being replaced by those of slate and tile, and even less pleasant materials than these. The fine church, restored in 1870, stands upon an eminence to the N. of the road, close to the upper part of the village. The tower rises from between the nave, with N. and S. aisles and clerestory, and the chancel. Internally the building is lofty and well-proportioned—circular pillars on N., and octagonal on S. The W. window of five lights, Perp., is excellent, as are the S. windows, Dec., of nave. The sedilia, S. wall, showing marks of Dec. and Perp. in independent connexion—the Perp. work being placed above Dec. niches—is interesting. Note also the Dec. piscina and the font, Perp., with figure below the top and upright ornamentation below. A custom exists of the church bell being rung daily at one o'clock.

Skirmett

[B.6]

is a small hamlet with a Victorian church and a number of attractive cottages lying pleasantly in the Hambleden valley between Hambleden and Fingest.

Simpson (Domesday, Sevinstone)

[C.2]

consists chiefly of a few cottages by the roadside, and at S. end is the church, with a background of water-meadows. It is cruciform, with some good Dec. windows on S. side. A modern window has been inserted at E. end. Part of the tower is of the original 13th-cent. church.

Slapton

[C.3]

lies in the low country at the E. side of the county. The church has little interest except for the font, 13th cent., and brasses to Reginald Manser (1462), James Tornay (1519) and two wives, and Thomas Knyghton (1529). The Brocas family are associated with the parish.

Slough

[D.7]

This former hamlet of Upton-cum-Chalvey (q.v.) has



49 QUAINTON CHURCH AND WINWOOD ALMSHOUSES



50 THE NORMAN CHURCH OF STEWKLEY, FROM THE
NORTH-WEST



51 THE SAXON APSIS OF WING CHURCH FROM THE
SOUTH-EAST

developed since the opening of the Great Western Railway in 1838 into the largest and ugliest town in Bucks. Slough first began to grow along either side of the great Bath Road in the coaching days, starting from the cross-roads at the centre of the town, where the Eton and Windsor Road branched south. Eton College bitterly opposed the railway, but although they failed to stop it, they did manage to prevent the erection of a station. The company, however, evaded this prohibition by stopping the trains at Slough and thus allowing passengers to board and alight from them, albeit without the convenience of a station, until in 1840 the Eton 'die-hards' had to bow to the inevitable and the station was at long last provided.

The parish church (St. Mary), originally dating from 1837, was rebuilt in brick and stone to the designs of J. Oldrid Scott in 1876-8. The Roman Catholic Church, to the NE. of the cross-roads, is a good modern essay in the Perp. style and dates from 1909. It is of flint and stone. On the Windsor Road is Observatory House, where Sir William Herschel (1738-1822) lived and carried on his astronomical researches. Baylis House, now a municipal college for education in citizenship, on the road to Stoke Poges, was once the country-house of Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, or Loughborough, as was his first and better-known title—the self-seeking 'wary Wedderburn', who from a Radical became suddenly a supporter of Lord North, and finally Lord Chancellor in 1792 in the administration of the younger Pitt—here he died in 1805. The house is of red brick and dates from 1695, and is now entirely engulfed in poor modern development.

After the conclusion of the 1914-18 war, a trading estate to the N. of the railway, W. of the station, was established on the site of what had been a huge Government dump of military vehicles used in France. This estate has grown into a vast centre of industry. A great number of factories of various kinds have been erected here, which have attracted a big population and caused the rapid growth of the town to its present size.

Soulbury

[C.3]

lies on the S. side of a hill between the Ouse Valley and the Vale of Aylesbury. The church, which is well placed, is a building of some interest, having Dec. and Perp. features. The nave was partly rebuilt early in the 16th cent.; the tower is also Perp. There are many monuments in the church to the ancient family of Lovett, who became possessed of the manor in 1304. The best of these monuments is that to

Robert Lovett on S. side of chancel (1701). He is in armour, kneeling at a desk with his wife on the opposite side. Note on floor of nave the brass effigies of John Turnay and Agnes his wife (1502), and another to Alice Mallet (husband's effigy lost).

To the S. of the village is Liscombe Park, with many ancient oaks, through which passes a gated road, one of Buckinghamshire's jokes! Liscombe House is the former seat of the Lovetts and the present building dates from 1630, but there was apparently an older one to the S. and the mediaeval chapel is a feature of great interest, though now used for secular purposes. A chantry was founded here by Robert Lovett in 1301, but the present chapel was not erected until c. 1350.

Speen

[C.5]

Hamlet in Lacey Green parish, formerly in good remote country, but now too near High Wycombe. Has acquired some fame through the Plough Inn.

Stantonbury

[C.2]

properly Stantonbarry, or Stanton Low, derives the last part of its name from the family of Barri, who held the manor in the time of Henry II. The population has now shifted to a modern settlement adjoining New Bradwell. The old church lies in a remote situation between the canal and the River Ouse and is in an extremely ruinous condition, having been disused for many years. It is a small building of Norm. date with a very fine chancel arch. This consists of three orders, the outer of chevron, the middle of grotesque heads of birds and animals, while the inner has been rebuilt in a pointed form. The capitals have grotesque heads and the shafts are richly moulded. The nave has a N. arcade (EE.), now blocked. The chancel was rebuilt in the Dec. period. It seems utterly lamentable that this extremely beautiful little building has been so shamefully neglected.

John Mason, the poet mystic, was Vicar of Stantonbury, from 1668 to 1674. He probably lived in the large house which his patron, Sir John Wittewronge, had built. Traces of the foundations of this house can be seen in the field N. of the church by the river, where a mound and some banks define the limits of what must have been a charming and secluded garden. It is now one of the many sad but mysteriously attractive 'deserted places' of Buckinghamshire.

Stewkley (Pl. 50)

[C.3]

is a long, straggling village with many old cottages, mostly of brick and timber construction, on the high land to the

W. of the valley of the Ousel. The church is the best example of the smaller Norm. aisleless type in the county. It has come down to us almost unimpaired, and is an admirable example of the style both in structure and detail. A massive tower, with interlaced arches and later pinnacles is the predominant external feature, rising from between the nave and the chancel. The W. door, which is deeply recessed, is the other most striking external feature. It is marked by a profusion of zigzag ornament, which is the main ornament both inside and outside the church. The doorway should be compared with the W. doorway at Iffley, to which, however, it is inferior in variety of ornament. The S. porch is a restoration by Street in 1862. The interior shows a profusion of zigzag ornament on the central tower arches and the vaulted chancel (compare Upton) is noteworthy. Note early stone sedile or bench, probably 13th cent., also Norm. font and fragments of a Nottingham alabaster reredos. Stewkley Church belongs to a late period of Norm. architecture, having been built in the reign of Henry II, about 1160, by Geoffrey, son of Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer to Henry I, together with several other churches in other counties; it was given to Kenilworth Priory by the second Geoffrey, the work having been done under the direction of the canons of Kenilworth.

Stoke Common

[D.6]

is the largest of the commons of Buckinghamshire, being 200 acres in extent. It is delightfully situated on an upland above Stoke Poges and Wexham to the S., and having the secluded village of Fulmer in a hollow at the NE. corner. At the NW. corner one road leads to Burnham Beeches, and another to Hedgerley. It is fringed on two sides by considerable fir plantations.

Stoke Goldington (Domesday, Stoches)

[C.1]

—the Goldingtons were a later family—is a considerable village on either side of the Newport Pagnell and Northampton main road, with a few pleasant cottages. It is not easy to realize the description of this part of the county in 1773 by one of the ministers of this place: 'The country is pleasant; the villages large and populous; but the people poor, ignorant and idle. The highest wages of the labourer in harvest time is only 1s. 6d. per day, without meat. Half of the inhabitants have little more knowledge, save the art of lacemaking, than they were born with. There are no schools for the poor, and they have no means of instruction but at church, where the greater part never come. Those

that have any religion are almost all Methodists and fanatics of one sort or other. Taking the whole country I think it remarkably poor and ignorant.'

The church is conspicuous on a height to W. of the village, by the side of the old manor-house, now a farm. The view from the churchyard over the village, with the foreground of sloping wooded meadows, is very pleasant. The church has nave (12th cent.), two aisles (the S. extending the entire length of church), chancel, and W. tower. The lofty tower arch (15th cent.) is striking; the piers of the nave are EE. There is a plain Norm. font.

Stoke Hammond (Domesday, Stockes)

[C.3]

Hammond, or Hamon, was son of Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton, in 12th cent., and Lord of Stoke, hence the second name of the place. This is rather a picturesque village, partly from the way it lies on the side of a small hill. There are still some old timbered and thatched cottages. The church, a cruciform building, is at N. of village, on high ground, with an agreeable view over the Ousel valley. The S. door is approached through an avenue of limes. With the exception of two pretty Dec. windows in chancel, the windows are now all good Perp. There is 15th-cent. glass in N. window of nave, including an archbishop in a pallium. Note (1) EE. circular font with four small pillars; (2) pillar almsbox, dated 1618; (3) shield-bearing angels supporting transept roof; (4) good Jacobean monument to Disney family on N. side, sanctuary; (5) Jacobean communion table, dated 1619. Outside note mass-dial on priest's door and two old yew trees in the churchyard, planted in 1687. The adjoining vicarage has good brickwork of c. 1700.

Stoke Mandeville

[C.4]

has a few old thatched cottages and good farm-houses, but has been much spoilt by 'ribbon development' along the Aylesbury-Wendover Road. A short walk through pleasant meadows, at the S. end of the village, leads to the disused parish church, charmingly situated among moats and banks marking the site of the old manor-house. It is now a complete ruin, only the walls (12th cent. with later insertions) and one corner of the 16th-cent. tower remaining. The modern church, at the opposite end of village, should be visited for the sake of the old font and admirable Elizabethan monument removed from the old church. In a recess is a recumbent marble effigy, with traces of colouring, of a young girl in an attitude of repose, her head supported by her left hand. Two babes in swaddling clothes complete the group.



52 SHARDELETES, AMERSHAM: THE NORTH AND EAST FRONTS



53 STOKES POGES CHURCH WITH GRAY'S TOMB EAST OF HASTINGS CHAPEL

These represent the three children of Edmund Brudenell, who held the Manor of Stoke, and by whom this monument was erected (about 1584). John Hampden possessed property in this parish, and it was in respect of the tax for ship-money on this that the legal proceedings (1635-8), which are so famous an event in the constitutional history of England, were taken.

Stokenchurch

[B.5]

is a large village chiefly devoted to chair-making, and stands on one of the highest points of the Chilterns. The church has a chancel, nave, N. transept, modern N. aisle, and a low W. tower. The chancel arch, with a squint on N. side, is fine Trans. In the chancel, on N. wall, is an Easter recess, and in the S. wall a well-preserved and good Dec. piscina. Note the unusual setting. The chancel and nave have been restored, the roof of the latter is of 15th cent. Above the arch, at E. end of nave, is the ancient entrance to the rood loft. The N. transept, font, and lower part of tower are Perp. The S. porch has an EE. doorway, with dog-tooth ornament on the dripstone. In the chancel are two late brasses to members of the Tipping family (1632), and affixed to the chancel arch, N. and S., is one to Robert Morle (1410), and another to Robert Morle (1415), with inscriptions in French, as often found in the case of knights in the 15th cent.

Stoke Poges (Domesday, Stoches = a place or enclosure, Poges is derived from a family of that name who owned the manor in the 13th cent. (Pl. 53)

[D.6]

This well-known parish is almost unrivalled in its literary and personal associations. The church stands on the W. or left-hand side of, and a short distance from, the road from Slough to Stoke Common and Gerrard's Cross, a little above the gate of Stoke Park. The road both above and below the entrance to the church is very attractive, from the old overhanging elms by which it is shaded. Although the amenities of the immediate surroundings of the church have been preserved, the neighbourhood is now greatly spoilt by villa building. The village of Stoke is 1 m. N. of the church, just below Stoke Common. It extends from the main road to Stoke Court. The church was probably built on the site of an older church, and is interesting on account of the development of its plan. It consists of a nave, two aisles, chancel, and tower at the N. side. At the E. end of the S. aisle is the Hastings Chapel, built about 1557, from which a fine 17th-cent. galley with twisted balusters has been swept away (1947). The oldest parts are the N. wall of the chancel and

the W. wall of the nave, which are Norm. The tower is a good example of EE. work. The S. aisle is of the same date, c. 1230, and the N. arcade about 1270. The E. window is Perp., and the other windows are debased Gothic. Near the E. end of the wall of the S. aisle is a piscina, which shows that this portion of the church was at one time a chapel. The font is a good example of simple Dec. work, having on the bowl the four-leaved flower. Note on the N. wall of the chancel a canopy—Dec. work of the 14th cent.—over a now vacant niche, which probably once held, or was intended to hold, a recumbent statue of Sir John Molyns, a man of much importance in his day, who died c. 1362. Within the altar-rails near the N. wall are two well-preserved brasses of Sir William Molyns (1425) and his widow, Lady Marjory, while close by are the later brasses of Edmund Hampdyn, Esq. (c. 1570), and his wife. On the N. side of the church is a cloistered entrance, containing some old stained glass—some in the N. windows of the 16th cent. and some is evidently Flemish. This glass has no connexion with the church, and was collected and placed in the building by a former owner of Stoke Park. Much of it has been placed in the windows of the Hastings Chapel. The space below the tower was used as the pew of the owner of Stoke Park. It contains some interesting carved chairs said to have been the property of Thomas Penn, for whose son, John, the present mansion in the Park—a fine view of which is obtained from the churchyard looking W.—was built by Wyatt in 1789. The S. porch, of about 1330 with oak-traceried sides, is charming and important. The 'ivy-mantled tower' (now, fortunately for the structure, no longer ivy-mantled) stands as it did in the middle of the 18th cent., but the wooden steeple was removed, at the restoration in 1924, by the late Sir Harold Brakspear. In the churchyard, close to the E. window, is the plain tomb of Gray's mother. The inscription to 'Dorothy Gray, the careful tender mother of many children, of whom one alone had the misfortune to survive her', was written by Gray himself, who, though he died (1771) at Cambridge, was buried in this grave. Of the *Elegy* it is impossible not to be reminded whether within or without the church.

A conspicuous but yet rather a vague figure in the early history of Stoke Poges is Sir John de Molines (or Molyns), able, active, and ever seeking his own enrichment. By his own energy he came to play an important part in the political affairs of the reign of Edward III. It was characteristic of

Molines that by his connexion with Stoke, he increased his wealth, for he married Egidia, cousin and heiress of Margaret, daughter of Robert Poges of Stoke Poges, a knight of the shire in 1300. Margaret was the wife of John Manduit of Somerford, Wilts. The manor passing through two generations of descendants was at length vested in his great-granddaughter, Alianore, who married Robert Hungerford, Lord Moleyns and Hungerford, and Stoke Poges thus passed into another family, and again into another, when Mary, sole daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Hungerford, married Edward, Lord Hastings, K.B.

To the N. of the church, and in the Park, the fine Tudor chimneys forming part of the old manor-house rise from among the trees. Now well restored, it was built in 1555 by the Earl of Huntingdon, and was for a time occupied by some of the Hatton family, but never by Sir Christopher Hatton, though Gray alludes to him in his *Long Story*—

‘Full oft within the spacious walls,
When he had fifty winters o’er him,
My brave Lord Keeper led the brawls;
The seal and maces danc’d before him.’

About 1600, Sir Edward Coke became lessee of the Manor under the Crown. During that tenure, and when he was Attorney-General in 1601, he entertained Queen Elizabeth at Stoke.

It was not, however, till 1621 that the manor was actually granted by King James to Coke, but from that time it was his country home, and here among his ‘much honoured allies and friends of Buckinghamshire’, as he says in the Preface to his *Institutes*, the old man lived until his death in 1634. His daughter married Sir John Villiers, who was created Baron Villiers of Stoke Poges and Lord Purbeck. Their descendants sold the property about 1720 to the Gayer family. Four years later Edmund Halsey bought it, and his daughter, who became the wife of Sir R. Temple, afterwards Lord Cobham, died here in 1760, when Thomas Penn, second son of William Penn, bought the manor, and his descendants held it till 1848, the present house in Stoke Park being built by John Penn in 1789, now the Golf Club House. It is a fine Palladian structure by Wyatt and Nasmith. A column, with a statue of Coke, was placed in the Park to his memory in 1800 by John Penn. From the pathway behind the church which leads to the manor-house it forms a striking feature, rising at the end of a broad avenue of

trees. Still farther north, quite hidden among the trees, and at the SW. corner of Stoke village, bounded on the E. by the road, stands Stoke Court as it is now called, which contains some portion of West End House, where Gray lived with his uncle, Mr. Rogers, and after his death with his mother and aunt, from 1742 to 1753. It was at the beginning of this stay in 1742 that the *Elegy* was commenced. Grey returned to work upon it at Cambridge in 1749, and he finished it at Stoke Poges in 1750.

It was during the same prolific year (1742) that the charming but pessimistic *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College* was written, which was doubtless the result of many summer walks, since before Gray lived at West End House he used to visit his uncle by marriage, Mr. Antrobus, at Burnham, which is near at hand. Nor should the year 1751 be forgotten, when Lady Cobham was owner of the manor-house, and with her niece, Miss Speed, and her friend, Lady Schaub, who were staying with her, became the heroines of Gray's *Long Story*.

At the N. side of the church in the adjoining meadow, now the property of the National Trust, is an unsightly monument to Gray, placed there by John Penn. Still farther to the N. is the red-brick hospital or almshouse, built by Thomas Penn, 1765, replacing the old Hastings Almshouses which adjoined the churchyard.

To the S. are the extensive Stoke Memorial Gardens.

Stone (Pl. 54)

[B.4]

is a straggling village on the road from Aylesbury to Thame and Oxford; the parish also contains the hamlet of Bishopstone to the SE.

The church stands on an artificial mound, with a delightful view to the S. It is cruciform, with nave, N. aisle, two transepts and chancel, and is a building of some interest. The tower at W. end is Dec., with a good cornice of masks, and doorway and window at W., which are also good; it is terminated by gables. The S. porch is Dec., but the doorway is late Norm. and very attractive, having two columns with small capitals and zigzag arch. The piers and arches of the N. aisle are apparently contemporaneous with the doorway. The chancel is EE., with an E. window of three lancets; the S. transept has a window of the same character, but that with two lights in the N. transept is later, and shows very well the transition to the Dec. style. Some Dec. windows have been inserted in the S. wall of nave, and Perp. in the N. aisle. The Norm. font is remarkable. Among interlaced

bands, having a small bead ornament, appear human heads, animals, and fishes. It was placed here in 1845, and originally belonged to the church of Hampstead Norris, Berks. (See *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. IX, p. 193.)

Four small brass effigies, in fairly good condition, are in the nave, just below the chancel steps. Those on left looking W. represent William Gurney (1472) and his wife; those on the right Thos. Gorney (1520) and his wife, Agnes. The inscription to whom is a palimpsest, the reverse side being inscribed to Christopher Thorpe, who died in 1514.

Important Roman remains were found in wells, which had been filled in, when making excavations on the site of the County Mental Hospital on the Thame road. Saxon relics have also been found at Bishopstone. The latter place, as well as Upper and Lower Hartwell, are attractive hamlets within the parish and contain charming groups of old cottages.

Stony Stratford

[B.2]

is a small market town on the Watling Street, consisting of one long street and a market-square. Before the destructive fires in 1738 and 1842, it contained a good deal that was interesting, including one of Queen Eleanor's Crosses. St. Giles' Church, on W. side of the High Street, has a Perp. tower, but the body was rebuilt by the architect, G. Hearn, in 1776; to this a chancel was added in 1928. Of St. Mary Magdalen Church, on the E. side of the High Street, only a Perp. tower remains. The town was formerly an important stop for stage-coaches on the Holyhead road. Two notable inns, each with a prominent sign, date from this period. They are the 'Cock' and the 'Bull', and it is said that the phrase 'cock and bull story' originated from the rumours, many quite without foundation, which travellers by coach were wont to pick up at these hostelryes. A few good houses remain. Roman remains have been found here indicative of the existence of some kind of Romano-British village.

Stowe (Pl. 56)

[B.2]

is 3 m. N. of Buckingham, and consists of Stowe House, formerly the princely seat of the Dukes of Buckingham, now the school, and the small church adjoining it. The school was opened in May 1923 with a few boys, and it has since become one of the leading public schools in the country.

A long, straight road between a wide avenue of trees leads from Buckingham to the Corinthian arch, designed by Thomas Pitt, Lord Camelford. The trees of this avenue

were saved from destruction through their purchase by Eton College, who presented them to the school. The house (916 ft. in length) is seen a mile away across the lake. The drive then skirts the W. side of the park and approaches the N. front of the house across a bridge and between the Boycott pavilions, two very handsome domed structures by Vanbrugh. The house and grounds are a noble example of 18th-cent. taste and magnificence. The main part of the present house was built by Sir Richard Temple about 1660, but the various additions were made by Richard, first Viscount Cobham, at the beginning of the 18th cent. Robert Adam designed the S. or garden front. The most noticeable rooms in the house itself are the Marble Saloon, forming the centre of the building, the State Drawing-room and State Dining-room on the E. side, and the Music-room and Library on the W. The house was, in fact, a splendid palace without royalty, though more royalties were probably entertained there than at any other house in England.

The new School Chapel, designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, was built between the years 1927-9. The old cedar-wood panelling, organ-case, and other fittings and carvings by Grinling Gibbons from the old chapel in the house were incorporated into the new building. The colonnades were taken from Kent's Temple of Concord.

The park was originally laid out by Bridgeman, a well-known landscape gardener in his day, in 1714, for Lord Cobham. Later, Capability Brown, who was Lord Cobham's gardener here from 1737 to 1750, made the lake and various alterations to the original scheme. The park is filled with every kind of classical temple, pavilion, obelisk, and triumphal arch. This odd assortment, begun by the first Lord Cobham, was added to by his successors, the Earls Temple and Dukes of Buckingham. To describe them all would require many pages; even Walpole, with his love of a kind of classical architecture, thought classicism had here been overdone. 'Twice a day,' he wrote to Conway in 1770, 'we made a pilgrimage to every heathen temple in that province that they call a garden,' and more to the same effect.

The Rotunda and Temple of Bacchus are by Vanbrugh, while Kent was responsible for a great many more, the Queen's Building, a handsome temple with a Corinthian portico being particularly noteworthy. This was dedicated in honour of Queen Charlotte, consort of George III, and contains a Roman pavement discovered at Foscott. Mention should also be made of the Temple of British Worthies by

Kent, with its 'bustos' as a contemporary guide-book quaintly describes them. Seven of these were the work of Rysbrack, and the rest were by Scheemakers. They represent the following 'worthies': King Alfred, the Black Prince, Queen Elizabeth, Raleigh, Drake, Shakespeare, Bacon, Inigo Jones, Milton, Hampden, Gresham, Locke, Pope, William III, Newton, and Sir John Barnard. Queen Elizabeth's inscription, which has been mutilated by some fanatic, reads:

'Queen Elizabeth, who confounded the projects, and destroyed the power that threatened to oppress the liberties of Europe; shook off the yoke of Ecclesiastical tyranny; restored religion from the corruption of popery; and by a wise, moderate and a popular government gave wealth, security and respect to England.'

The Cobham monument, by Gibbs, which is 115 ft. in height, is crowned by a statue of the first Lord Cobham.

The small church stands to the SE. of the house and has an EE. tower and N. arcade, a Dec. S. arcade and chancel. Most of the remainder is Perp. In the N. chapel is the recumbent effigy of Martha, wife of Sir Thomas Penyston, Bart. (1619); at her feet is the effigy of her infant daughter. There are several tablets and inscriptions to various Dukes of Buckingham and other owners of Stowe, and monumental brasses to (1) Alice Saundres, c. 1469 (floor of chancel, S.); (2) Thomas Temple and wife, Hester, 1592 (floor of chancel, S.). Note on exterior, over W. doorway, a niche containing a crucifix with attendant figures of SS. Mary and John (c. 1330). Outside the S. porch is a much defaced effigy of a 14th-cent. civilian, now upright, but formerly recumbent.

The famous Stowe MSS. were purchased by the Marquis of Buckingham in 1803 from a person named Astle, and after some changes of ownership were bought by the British Museum in 1883.

Stratford, Fenny, Stony, and Water—see under Fenny, Stony, and Water Stratford respectively.

Swanbourne

[C.3]

is quite an ideal village, and stands on high ground, so that through the trees glimpses of distant fields are gained. The church, the mullioned windows of the Tudor manor-house, and by the roadside, in the opposite direction, the picturesque Deverell's Farm, a stone house built in the form of a cross, with the date 1632, and cottages with black-and-white walls—the whole forms an exceptionally pleasant sight. The

church has an EE. chancel, rebuilt in 1863, containing an EE. double piscina. The tower was rebuilt late in 15th cent. There is a good Perp. window on N. side, but the other windows are Dec. Note an EE. font, and the 17th-cent. lectern. In the chancel floor are two brasses depicting a man in a cloak, and a woman in a broad hat and ruff. The one represents Thomas Adams, yeoman and freeman of London:

'Who in prime of youth by bloody thieves was slain,
In Liscombe ground his blood ye grass did staine'—

his wife, Elizabeth (1626) and four children. There are remains of paintings on N. wall, the subject is the soul before and after death.

Taplow (Domesday, Thapeslau)

[C.6]

is a large village on the left bank of the Thames, opposite Maidenhead. A large modern district in Taplow has grown up near the station and river. The oldest part stands high and lies to the N., and here there are a few half-timbered old cottages. Especially attractive is the Elizabethan farmhouse, next to a house called the Gables, on the right-hand side of the street up the hill northwards from the church. Taplow Court, a modern mansion now used for industrial research, stands, with fine views over river and woods, about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. W. of the church, and to the S. of it stood the old church, of which no traces are left. Here in the churchyard a Saxon barrow, on which stood an ancient yew tree, was opened and examined. Important relics, now in the British Museum, were discovered.

The present church was built some distance from the site of the old, in 1912, from designs by Fellows Prynne. It is a successful essay in the Dec. style and contains an interesting stone rood screen incorporated with the chancel arch, and some good stained glass. The church replaced a brick structure dating from the early 19th cent. There is a late 12th-cent. Purbeck marble font from the old church. The present bowl is modern, but part of the original one has been preserved. There are also some important monumental brasses in the S. chapel: (1) small effigy of a civilian, Nichole de Aumberdene, fishmonger (c. 1340) within the head of a beautiful floriated cross, the stem of which rests upon a dolphin; (2) Richard Manfeld (1455), Isabelle, his sister, John, his half-brother, and an infant in a shroud; (3) Thomas Manfeld (1540) and Augnes and Katherine his wives. In the N. aisle near the Grenfell pew are a series of brass inscriptions and shields, most notable among which are (1) rhyming

55 AYLESBURY CHURCH FONT



54 STONE CHURCH FONT





56 STOWE SCHOOL

inscription, shield, and lozenge commemorating Thomas Jones (1584), who served Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth; and (2) inscription with shield to Hester Manfeild, with interesting anagram of the name, who 'died in the Catholique Romane faith in which she lived' (1617).

Maidenhead Bridge, a dignified 18th-cent. structure with stone balustrades, carries the London-Bath Road over into Berkshire. Farther downstream is Brunel's immense brick railway bridge, which was built between 1837 and 1838. The flat-looking, semi-elliptical arches, which are only 24 ft. in height, have the remarkable span of 128 ft. The river from the boathouse by the bridge to Boulter's Lock ($\frac{3}{4}$ m.) on the Bucks. side, is pleasant, with low islands of osier-beds and many hotels and boathouses. The back-water and mill at Boulter's Lock, with the background of the woods of Taplow Court, is a charming piece of river scenery, while from Boulter's Lock to the grounds of Cliveden (q.v.), $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., the hanging woods, varying in colour, and interspersed with immense masses of wild clematis, are unsurpassed in any portion of the Thames. They form part of the Taplow and Cliveden estates.

Tattenhoe

[C.2]

is one of the 'deserted places' of Bucks. It is a small parish consisting of one or two farm cottages and a lonely little church in the fields, behind the wood called Howe Park, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the W. of Bletchley. There is no road to it and in winter with swollen brooks and heavy clay all round it is almost inaccessible. The church was rebuilt in 1540 from the materials of the adjacent Priory of Snelshall. There are remains of old glass in the E. window. The 18th-cent. font stands upon 13th-cent. shafts. The place has all the charm of utter remoteness, and its setting amid earthworks of uncertain age and purpose, as well as the more recognizable mediaeval moats and fishponds, give it the forlorn fascination of departed things.

Terriers

[C.5]

is a suburban district of High Wycombe on the road to Amersham. The striking modern church dates from 1930, and was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the architect of Liverpool Cathedral.

Thornborough

[B.2]

is a large and attractive village with good stone farms and cottages, having in its centre a green with stocks and well-grouped cottages, and the church on S. side. It has a W. tower, nave, N. aisle, and chancel. There is some Dec. and

some Perp. detail, work having been done from the 13th to the 15th cent. The N. arcade of the nave seems to be the oldest part which remains. In the nave is a brass to W. Barton and his wife (1589) and at the E. end of the N. aisle are a considerable number of 15th-cent. glazed and patterned tiles. The communion table is of 17th-cent. date. The screen and sanctuary fittings are a war memorial of crude and garish design out of keeping with the simplicity of the church.

Thornborough Bridge, about 1 m. from the village, is the only mediaeval bridge in the county. It was originally built in the 14th cent., but has been restored from time to time. Near by are Thornborough Mounds, two immense tumuli of uncertain age. One was opened in 1840 (see *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. V, p. 335).

Thornton

[B.2]

is only separated from Northamptonshire by the River Ouse. The church stands in the grounds of Thornton College, formerly the manor-house and now a convent school. The chancel, having become ruinous, was pulled down c. 1780-90, many monuments being then destroyed. The tower, nave arcades, S. aisle, and chancel arch of mid- or late 14th-cent. date, much restored, c. 1850, remain; the N. aisle was rebuilt in the 19th cent. The box-pew seating and two-decker pulpit and other fittings are attractive and unspoilt. Placed on either side of the tower are the alabaster effigies of John and Isabella Barton (d. 1443) from their destroyed tomb. In 1947 the fine altar tomb of Robert Ingylton was found in pieces built into a grotto in the grounds of Thornton College. It has been reassembled in the nave of the church, and the original slab with the brass of Robert Ingylton (1472) and his three wives under a quadruple canopy, replaced on top. Note the brass of Jane, daughter of Robert Ingylton, wife first of Humfrey Tyrrell and afterwards of Alexander St. John, 1557.

Tingewick

[A.2]

is a long village, on either side the main road from Buckingham to Bicester, with some picturesque thatched buildings. The church is on N. side of, and above, the village. The nave is divided from N. aisle by circular pillars with plain arches, which are part of the original 12th-cent. building; the S. aisle and piers are modern. In the N. wall is a Norm. doorway, blocked. The chancel and W. tower are Perp.—the latter has a good doorway; the font is old and plain with octagonal bowl. Note the brass, N. wall of chancel, to Erasmus Williams (1608).

Totteridge

[C.5-C.6]

Modern district of High Wycombe.

Towersey

[B.5]

has been transferred to Oxfordshire in exchange for Kingsey (q.v.).

Turville

[B.6]

in the heart of the Chilterns with its lovely surroundings of wooded hills, stands at the head of the Hambleden Valley, on the verge of Oxfordshire. On the ridge above the village is a windmill. The village is small, and, seen from the churchyard, its old picturesque cottages and the hills beyond make a delightful picture. There were two manors in Turville, one of which, Turville Manor, was sold in 1753 to John Osborn, the famous bookseller, who, in 1742, had purchased the famous Harley library for £13,000. Turville Park was once the seat of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst. The house was built in the middle of the 17th cent.

The church is a good specimen of a small country church of mixed styles, though heavily restored. It has a nave, chancel, vestry, S. porch. The Perp. tower at W. end is of flint, low and massive, with a brickwork parapet. The whole church was restored in 1900. The steep roof of nave is early 14th cent. The N. and S. doorways are Norm., with an EE. arch inserted in each; the font is Norm. on a modern base; and in the wall of nave, to E. of S. porch, are remains of a Norm. window in flint. The chancel has been restored, there is a small Dec. piscina in S. wall. In the vestry is a small Dec. window, removed from the chancel. The arches E. and W. of nave are plain EE. Near the W. door of the tower there is a fine, probably 13th-cent., stone coffin.

Turweston

[A.2]

is an unexpectedly picturesque village, close to the borders of Northamptonshire, in a rather uninteresting agricultural, but capital hunting country. The church is extremely interesting internally. The piers and arches of N. aisle are pure Norm. Those on the S. are Trans., and show the development towards EE. The chancel shows EE. characteristics, but has a Perp. E. window and good EE. arch; most of the other windows are Dec. throughout. Note a Dec. niche and an EE. piscina in chancel; also at E. end of N. aisle a monument depicting two figures kneeling at a desk. The background is coloured, and the inscription is quaint, commemorating Simon Heynes (1628). Within the communion rails are three brass effigies, on N. side in excellent preservation, of a priest, and on the S. side of Thomas

Grene and his wife (1470). The large house at N. end of churchyard is the manor-house, built early in the 17th cent.

Twyford

[A.3]

The church is of mixed styles and of great interest. Notice (1) reset S. doorway, Norm., with beaked ornaments and stars and flowers (c. 1180); (2) circular font with pillars, late Norm.; (3) remnant of stone effigy (priest) under Dec. canopy in S. wall; (4) screen, restored; (5) recumbent statue of knight in chain armour in S. aisle; (6) at E. end, elaborate monument to Viscount Wenman (d. 1640); (7) in the chancel, the brass effigies of (a) John Everden, rector, c. 1413 (half-length); (b) in S. aisle on altar tomb, one finely preserved, of Thomas Giffard (1550) (palimpsest). The N. arcade is of c. 1260, the S. c. 1280, and the chancel arch is 13th cent. with 12th-cent. carving re-used. The magnificent roof of the nave, early 15th cent., should be specially noted.

The vicarage, NE. of the church, is a building of some interest, incorporating the remains of a late 15th-cent. house with a hall of three bays and a solar, with additions and alterations about 1560 and later.

Tyler's Green

[C.5]

a hamlet adjoining Penn, created an ecclesiastical parish in 1863, has a modern church. The houses and trees fringing the village green and pond make a charming picture. Tiles were made here in mediaeval times (see Introduction, p. 26).

Tyringham (Domesday, Telingham, later Tedlingham)

[C.2]

2 m. NW. of Newport Pagnell. The church is beautifully placed in the park of Tyringham Hall, on a gentle rise above the Ouse, which here flows through the park. The view from the churchyard, of the bridge, water, and trees is delightful, as is that from the bridge, a classical structure by Soane, reminding one of Vanbrugh's work at Castle Howard. The church was to have been rebuilt by Sir John Soane in 1795, but the plans, which still exist and which provide for a domed structure with three porches, were never proceeded with, and the old church was repaired instead. The lower part of the tower is of Norm. date. On the E. wall of chantry are two brasses—the effigy of the man depicts John Tyringham, a Knight, dressed in a tabard with the Tyringham arms, that of the woman commemorates Mary (d. 1508), wife of Anthony Catesby, and daughter of John Tyringham. The Tyringhams possessed the manor for centuries—having taken the name of the place as their family name—but the male branch came to an end in 1685. Tyringham House is seen in the trees to the NW. of the church. It was

built in 1792 by Soane, but has been altered since. It replaced an older house, which had stood for several centuries, 'a large and venerable mansion on the banks of the Ouse', as it was described by Richard Cumberland in the 17th cent. The entrance lodges and gateway also by Sir John Soane, are particularly handsome, while the lay-out of the gardens with canal and temple by Sir Edward Lutyens is also noteworthy. There is no village of Tyringham.

Upton-cum-Chalvey

[D.7]

is now a part of Slough. At the Conquest the manor of Upton (Domesday, Opetone) was granted by William to Hugh de Beauchamp, whose son gave it to Merton Convent, Surrey.

Bulstrode Park and House lay formerly partly in this parish, and numerous brasses to the Bulstrode family are in the church (St. Lawrence), a small Norm. structure. Note here a famous yew tree said to be as old as the church itself.

When the new parish church in Slough was built St. Lawrence's Church at Upton was allowed to fall almost into ruin, but in 1850 it was restored and enlarged. It consists of chancel, central tower, nave, and modern S. aisle. In the chancel the Norm. vaulting is noteworthy as the only other Norm. vaulted chancel in the county besides Stewkley. At the restoration traces of the original colouring were found and these have been reproduced. Note in the S. wall the remarkable piscina; on the S. wall of tower a small sculptured mutilated statue in tinted alabaster, representing the Holy Trinity (c. 1400); also the font, Norm., and a curious old alms-box. In the E. wall of the S. aisle, is the old arch, on each side of it are two pointed arches (also removed from E. end of nave). That on the left is beautifully carved in wood, in excellent preservation, with three E.E. dog-tooth mouldings. In the tower is a monument to Sir William Herschel, who is buried beneath it. Several well-preserved brasses are on E. wall of the S. aisle—one a female in a shroud, kneeling, commemorates Agnes Bulstrode (1472)—an inscription in Hebrew belonging to some other brass is under it. Below this are effigies representing Edward Bulstrode (1599)—the armour he is wearing is a good example of the period—his wife, Cecile, and their four sons and six daughters. Beneath the pointed arch to the right is an earlier brass to Edward Bulstrode (Esquire for the body with Kings Henry VII and Henry VIII, 1519), with effigies of two wives, 12 four sons, and eight daughters. Note on the exterior, N.,

the Norm. doorway, and to left of it traces of a large circular archway.

The tower has sometimes been believed to be the one referred to in Gray's *Elegy*, and not that of Stoke Poges.

Near N. wall is a broken flat tombstone with the inscription, 'Here lies the body of Sarah Bramstone, of Eton, Spinster, a person who dared to be just in the reign of George II'. But how she gained this reputation we are not told.

Upton Court, SW. of the old church, is an important house dating in part from the late 15th cent., but altered in the 17th and 19th cents.

There is a modern church at Chalvey, which is also a part of Slough.

Verney Junction

[B.3]

is situated where the line from Aylesbury and London joins the Oxford branch of the former London and North Western Railway (later L.M.S.R.). This was the most northerly point reached by the old Metropolitan Railway which, in spite of its name, penetrated far into the recesses of rural Bucks. This is now merged in the London Transport system.

Waddesdon

[B.4]

is a model village adjoining the extensive grounds of Waddesdon Manor. There is an extensive view to the N. and E. over the Vale of Aylesbury from the church, which has been much restored, and has a nave with aisles, chancel, S. porch, and massive W. tower, the last two rebuilt late in the 19th cent. The church is particularly interesting structurally on account of the development of the plan, and contains some good details and fittings. In c. 1190, the nave and S. aisle with arcade of four bays was built. In the 13th cent. this was lengthened towards the W., a new pier being inserted, and the old respond re-used at W. end; c. 1320, the chancel was rebuilt, an extra bay being added to E. end of nave arcades; c. 1340, the N. arcade and aisle were rebuilt, and the chancel widened on the N. side. In the 15th cent. the clerestory was added, with other details. Note (1) fine work of 12th-cent. S. arcade, some perhaps reset; (2) brasses on the S. side of nave to Sir Roger Dynham (1490) brought from chantry at Eythorpe, destroyed in 1738; (triple canopy) in chancel to Sir Richard Huntyngdon, rector, 1543; shroud brass to Hugh Bristowe, rector, 1548-88, and Robert Pygott and his wife; (3) fine effigy of an unknown man (c. 1340). The Italian marble pulpit—gloriously inappropriate—came from Blenheim.

Waddesdon Manor—the house was completed by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in 1880—is a conspicuous object from a long distance, the chateau-like building (from designs by a French architect) occupying a striking position; the park and plantations, which now cover land which when the house was built was fields and hedgerows, extend up the hill to Upper Winchendon. A striking view of the house and park may be obtained from the entrance at the top of Winchendon Hill. This was one of a group of six vast mansions in this area built or owned by the various branches of the Rothschild family when at the height of their influence and prosperity. Of the others, Halton, Mentmore, Aston Clinton, and Ascott-in-Wing are in Bucks.; the sixth, Tring, is just over the Herts. border.

Walton

[C.4]

is a parish without a village. The church and hall are near each other, to the E. of the main road. The church is a charming little building, perfectly isolated, surrounded by trees among pleasant meadows, and is an excellent example of a small country church in the Dec. style. A plain S. porch and doorway, in their original state, are interesting. The windows and the priest's door in chancel also on S. side should be noticed. On the N. wall of chancel is a quaint and touching little monument to a child, Elizabeth Pyxe, who died in 1617 at the age of eleven. It consists of six Latin lines, followed by two English stanzas. The first of these runs:

'Elizabeth, the daughter deare
Of William Pyxe, heere lies inter'd
O! that her death for many a yeare
Almightie God would have deferd.

Her Mother's Hope, her Father's joye,
And eke her Friends' delight was shee:
She was most kind, courteous not coy,
A meeker soule there could not bee.
A modest hue, a lovely grace,
Appeared in her beauteous face.'

On the same wall is a small but striking 17th-cent. monument to a gentleman named Beale and his wife—two busts in recesses divided by a black marble pillar. He died in 1660 and she in 1657. At each end above is the usual coat of arms. On the S. wall of the nave is a monument to Sir T. Pinfold, an eminent civil lawyer, who held the office of King's Advocate and Chancellor of

Peterborough, and who died in 1701. This is by Nollekens. The manor-house was built in the 16th and enlarged in the 17th cent.

Walton

[C.2]

is also the name of a suburb on the S. side of Aylesbury.

Water Stratford

[A.2]

is a mere hamlet in the Upper Ouse Valley. Little is left of the old church, the nave and chancel having been rebuilt in 1828, and the bell turret more recently, but the old doors and windows were preserved. The S. door is Norm. with zigzag mouldings, and a remarkable tympanum on which is depicted the Saviour seated. At the head of doorway note the remarkable horizontal string. The chancel doorway, also Norm., has a sculptured tympanum with an Agnus Dei upon a background covered with a diaper of roses, the lintel being carved with two entwined dragons. W. of this is a small EE. lancet forming a low-side window.

Wavendon

[C.2]

stands on the high ground overlooking Woburn Sands to the S. and the woods of Woburn Abbey over the Bedfordshire border beyond. The church is chiefly Dec. with a Perp. tower. The chancel, except for the arch leading into it, is modern. The pulpit is hexagonal and of late 17th-cent. date. It is richly ornamented and has panels elaborately inlaid. It was brought from the church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West in London, and is said to be by Grinling Gibbons.

The manor-house, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the E. of the church, dates from c. 1600, and was formerly E-shaped, but later extensions have since obscured the original plan. In Wavendon Wood is a prehistoric contour fort covering about $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

Weedon

[C.4]

is a small village, joined with Hardwick, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. away on the N. There are a number of pleasant old cottages and farms. The Wheatsheaf Inn at the N. end of the village is a good timber and thatch building with a Renaissance window of moulded brickwork. The Manor Farm and its barns, 1649, 1674, and 1687, has some good work with interior panelling and staircase. There is a good group with another inn at the centre of the village and another charming isolated group at East End overlooking Aylesbury. Here there are several cottages, and farms with timber-framing with herring-bone brick filling of 16th- and 17th-cent. date; and another window 17th cent., similar to that at the Wheatsheaf, also repeated in the next village of Whitchurch, and clearly the work of a local craftsman. There is a modern chapel.



57 WILLEN CHURCH



58 LOWER WINCHENDON: THE CHURCH AND MANOR FARM

Well End

[C.6]

Modern development area near Bourne End; the new housing estate being on the site of a Roman cemetery.

Wendover (Domesday, Wendoure) (Pl. 3)

[C.4]

is an attractive little town (431 ft.) in the Chiltern Hills, and an excellent centre for excursions, either E. by Boddington Hill and Halton Wood to Tring and the Herts. border, or W. along the summit of Coombe Hill to Chequers Court and Ellesborough. The centuries have not greatly changed Wendover, and Leland's description of it as 'a pretty thoroughfare town, having two streets well builded with tymbre' is as appropriate now as it was three and a half centuries ago. In the High Street are many half-timbered houses, mostly of the 16th and 17th cents., and in the Tring Road is a line of heavily thatched small-windowed cottages, built 1600 to 1620. In Aylesbury Street there is a particularly good range of frontages behind a row of trees, mostly early 18th cent., some masking earlier features. The town nestles in a gap in the Chiltern range, and when viewed from above is almost lost in the dip of the land.

The Manor of Wendover, among the various changes of owners, once formed part of the dowry of Katherine of Aragon, and the borough, like Amersham and Marlow, having lost its Parliamentary representation for many years, obtained it again in 1623 through the exertions of John Hampden, who then became one of its members, which he remained till 1640. Wendover continued to return two members till the Reform Act of 1832, when it was disfranchised. Among these members occurs, in 1768, the name of Burke.

Wendover was for years the pocket borough of the Earls Verney, and it is said that at the election of 1784 there first appeared an individual who became notorious in subsequent elections in corrupt boroughs—The Man in the Moon, who brought £6,000 to distribute among the voters.

The church is reached by the London road, and then by a footpath (left), or a little farther on by a lane, or by going down the High Street and taking the path by the schools.

The church, with the manor-house behind it, and the picturesqueness of the surroundings, forms a delightful rural scene. Externally it is flint with a W. tower; internally it is spacious and lofty, but terribly dark, with two aisles, a triforium and chancel, and is of good Dec. work. Note the somewhat unusual piers, very early Dec., showing

characteristics of much earlier work, and the capitals—S. with quaint animals, N. with flowers.

The S. door has good ball-flower ornament. The brass to William Bradschawe, wife, and children (1539), S. wall of nave, is an interesting example of 16th-cent. work.

The walker who wishes to get among the Chilterns, by following the Tring road for $\frac{1}{2}$ m., and taking a footpath (right) opposite the last of a row of cottages (left), can reach the Halton Woods and across the range to Tring (Herts.). A more agreeable beginning to the walk is to take a path from the church into the road to St. Leonard's, and when this road almost touches the open hill-side (1 m.), to proceed by a grass bridle road round Boddington Hill, or climb to the top and walk through the beechwoods till the path previously mentioned is struck at right angles.

If one wishes to go W. along the range of hills, take the road across the railway, which leads to Butler's Cross, Ellesborough, and the Kimbles. Take the Upper Icknield Way, and in about 300 yards, follow the rough road (left) up Baccombe Hill (852 ft.), from which is a distant and continuous view over the county to the N. On Coombe Hill, highest point of the Chilterns, is a Boer War memorial which is a conspicuous landmark. It was struck by lightning and shattered; but has been restored. Avoid a pathway through the wood called the Scrub (left), and also a road (left) which leads to Little Hampden, and at the corner of a beechwood (right, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.), by a post which indicates a footpath to Butler's Cross, one finds a most agreeable view of the Chilterns. Below the wooded hills is Chequers Court (q.v.), in a gap in the hills, with its park extending up the opposite slope; to the right the bare grassy surface of Cymbeline's Mount, and below it the tower of Ellesborough Church. Beyond, to the NW., the pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury extend to meet the Oxfordshire border. The road descends among woods, and joins a main road—left to Missenden—right to Butler's Cross, and if this be followed for a $\frac{1}{4}$ m., a pathway (left) across the fields conducts one to Ellesborough Church and Cymbeline's Mount.

Two and a half miles SE. from Wendover by the side of the road to St. Leonard's is the Hale, the birthplace of Sir Henry Colet, the father of Dean Colet. It is charmingly nestled in a recess of the hills. The house which Dean Colet once owned no longer exists, the present structure having been built about 1748; near it an old cottage and a group of farm buildings make a pretty picture. In the parish is Wellwick Farm, 1616, with fine chimney stacks.

Westbury

[A.2]

is an old-fashioned village, near the NW. borders of the county. The church, almost in the grounds of the manor-house, is good Dec. throughout. Note, however, the Trans. tower arch with toothed ornament. The pillars supporting the arch were rebuilt when the Dec. building replaced that of an older time. The ancient manor-house was entirely rebuilt in 1903.

Westcott

[B.4]

has a brick church with stone dressings designed by G. E. Street, architect of the Law Courts, dating from 1867.

Weston Turville

[C.4]

is a considerable village in the Vale of Aylesbury. It takes its additional name from a family who owned the manor in the reign of King John.

The form of the village is interesting, and represents a feature common in Bucks., namely the division of a settlement or parish into subsidiary settlements, groups, or 'endships'. At Weston Turville there are four such distinct groups—West End,' Church End, Brook End, and Bye Green, each having a little nucleus of ancient houses.

The church is at the end of a small lane, which runs due S. near the W. end of the village. It has a Perp. W. tower with high turret, nave, S. aisle, chancel, and two porches partly of old work. The S. arcade and aisle are 13th cent., the chancel c. 1345, at which time also the N. aisle and arcade were built, and the S. arcade lengthened. The tower is 15th cent. The font, late 12th cent., is another fine example of the Aylesbury type. It has the fluted ornament, cable, and bead work. In the S. aisle are the remnants of a screen, 15th cent. On the chancel wall is a small brass of a civilian (c. 1580) with no inscription. Note also the pulpit (1567) with good carvings and some 14th-cent. glass, also the fragments of stone-carving from an earlier church, and the unusual form of the tracery and the S. aisle windows, 14th cent., flowing Dec. under a square head. Immediately N. of the church is the manor-house, in the grounds of which is a mount and bailey castle. The manor-house stands in what was the bailey.

Weston Underwood

[C.1]

is an attractive village. No more charming rural picture is to be found than the view from the lower end of the village, which lies on either side of the road from Olney, or from the church, which stands on a slight headland above the valley of the Ouse at the top of the village. At the Olney

end, at the beginning of a gentle ascent, are the spreading trees of Weston Park, opposite, on the lower side, is the site of the old house of the Throckmortons (now covered by modern stables and a Roman Catholic chapel), which was pulled down in 1826, when the Throckmortons—Thomas Throckmorton married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Olney in 1446—left Weston. In the 18th cent. the main road from Olney passed lower down the slope behind the great house. The present road was private, and one gateway still remains. Half-way up the village street, on the right hand, is the house where Cowper lived from 1786 to his final departure from Bucks. in 1795, in sadness and in sickness. Anyone can see by the contrast of the places how great must have been the relief to Cowper, when his kind and sensible cousin, Lady Hesketh, arranged that he and Mrs. Unwin should leave Olney for Weston. His two friends, the Throckmortons, whom he playfully called Mr. and Mrs. Frog, lived at the Hall. This is now, as we have said, no longer in existence, but in the grounds across the road one may, though it is changed, see something of the Grove

‘Between the upright shafts of whose tall elms
We may discern the thresher at his task,’

as well as of The Wilderness, whose

‘Well-rolled walks
With curvature of slow and easy sweep’

have long ago become grass-grown.

It is this connexion with Cowper which has given Weston something of the fame which belongs to Stoke Poges in the S. of the county. Between Weston and Olney the road passes over some rising ground, a rib of the valley side, the view from which Cowper and Mary Unwin in their walks to Weston, before they went to live there, must have many times gazed upon, and which is described in these felicitous lines:

‘How oft upon yon eminence our pace
Has slacken’d to a pause, and we have borne
The ruffling wind, scarce conscious that it blew,
While Admiration, feeding at the eye,
And still unsated, dwelt upon the scene.
Thence with what pleasure have we just discern’d
The distant plough slow moving, and beside
His lab’ring team, that swerv’d not from the track,
The sturdy swain diminished to a boy!

Here Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
 Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er,
 Conducts the eye along his sinuous course
 Delighted. There, fast rooted in their bank,
 Stand, never overlook'd, our fav'rite elms,
 That screen the herdsman's solitary hut:
 While far beyond, and overthwart the stream,
 That, as with molten glass, inlays the vale,
 The sloping land recedes into the clouds;
 Displaying on its varied side the grace
 Of hedge-row beauties numberless, square tow'r,
 Tall spire, from which the sound of cheerful bells
 Just undulates upon the list'ning ear,
 Groves, heaths, and smoking villages remote.'

Weston Park can be entered from the road opposite the Roman Catholic chapel, but a walk, which best brings back Cowper's days, is to follow the little stream Ho-brook, which is crossed between Olney and Weston. Taking the path which leaves the road beyond Ho-brook, on the N. or right side coming from Olney, and passing along the streamlet, the path runs through the First Spinney—Cowper's Shrubbery. Presently one reaches the Peasant's Nest. Now it is a farm-house; in days gone by it was a picturesque, thatched cottage.

Leaving this on the right, and continuing through the Second Spinney, one reaches the Chestnut Avenue.

The immediate foreground, and all the woodland scene are described with Cowper's marvellous fidelity; and then he looks into the distance:

'O'er those, but far beyond (a spacious map
 Of hill and valley interpos'd between),
 The Ouse, dividing the well-water'd land,
 Now glitters in the sun, and now retires,
 As bashful, yet impatient to be seen.'

Not far distant, to the left or S., is the avenue of limes,

'How airy and how light the graceful arch,'

and keeping still to the S. nearing the road, we end our ramble at The Wilderness, with its broad walk and two monumental urns, on one of which is the epitaph to Sir John Throckmorton's pointer, beginning:

'Here lies one who never drew
 Blood himself, yet many slew;'

and on the other the lines to the Spaniel:

'Though once a puppy, and though Fop by name,
Here moulders one whose bones some honour claim.'

The church was probably built about 1376, when Pope Gregory granted to the people of Weston the right to build a place of sepulture, and a chapel. It has a nave, aisles, and chancel with circular pillars, N. porch, and a W. tower with Perp. windows, and a restored W. doorway. There are good windows of the same style in the nave and clerestory. The upper lights of the 14th-cent. E. window contain some mediaeval glass of importance, including figures of Our Lord ascending, SS. Peter, Paul, John Baptist, John Evangelist, Laurence, etc., all of c. 1380. In the S. aisle is a brass of Elizabeth Throckmorton (1571), of which the head has been broken off, since it was engraved in Lipscomb in 1847, and the effigies of the children. There is also a brass inscription running from below the chancel steps in two lines into the nave, round the verge of a stone, in memory of John Olney, Lord of Weston and Olney, who on the inscription is said to have died in 1405, but this appears to be wrong, the real date of his death being 1393, and who seems, from the inscription, to have been the founder of the church:

'Is, quae parva fuit antiqua Capella, ruensque,
Hanc in plebeiam condidit Ecclesiam,'

and this assertion would correspond with the date and tenor of the Papal Bull.

Wexham

[D.6]

consists of some groups of scattered cottages N. of Slough. The church, consisting of an aisleless nave and chancel, with S. porch, 2 m. from Slough, is a small flint building with a low tower and wooden bellcot. It has a good Dec. E. window. Two small Norm. windows are in the nave. Note (1) round Norm. window in W. gable; (2) ornate recess in S. wall of chancel, 14th cent.; (3) post-Reformation font.

There has been much development between the two wars, and modern Slough is fast encroaching up the once unfrequented lanes.

Whaddon

[C.3]

is a village on a high plateau (429 ft.). Its modern aspect probably arises from the fact that the inhabitants of the manor were scattered, and only in recent times have cottages grown up near the church and hall. It is, however, clearly a place of great antiquity, for in 1849 a hoard of some 400

gold coins of late Celtic date was found in Whaddon Chase. In the park are some earthworks, all that remains of Snelshall Priory (see Tattenhoe), a small Benedictine house founded in 1219. The history of the manor of Whaddon emphasizes the absentee phase of English mediaeval life, and shows that oftentimes there was little local connexion between the lords of the manors and the locality in which they lay. At the Domesday Survey the manor belonged to Walter Giffard, while the Bishop of Bayeux and Hugh de Bolebec also held a smaller share of the possessions of their Saxon predecessors. Later, the manor twice reverted to the Crown, and was successively held by the d'Albinis, Earls of Arundel, the Fitz-Geoffreys, and the Fitz-Johns. Then the De Burghs, Earls of Ulster, appeared on the scene on the death of Richard Fitz-John in 1297, and then, in 1355, the estates descended to Philippa de Burgh, Countess of March. Several members of the March family followed until Edward, son of Cecil, Countess of March, succeeded to the throne as Edward IV. Henry VII settled the manor on Katherine of Aragon on her marriage with Prince Arthur. At her death it was granted to Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour, when she died in 1536 it again reverted to the Crown. During the remainder of the reign of Henry VIII, and in the reigns of Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth the manor was held on lease from the Crown by several less distinguished families—the Pigotts, the Cliffords, the Tyrells, and the Bests, but in the reign of James I Whaddon again became a royal domain, and he granted it as part of her dower to his wife, Queen Anne. At her death he presented it to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, with all the property in Whaddon which had belonged to the Lords Grey de Wilton, viz. Giffard's Manor, in which was included the Hall and grounds. On the death of the second duke Whaddon was bought by Mr. Serjeant Selby and Mr. Thomas Willis, the latter taking the portion which formed Lord Grey de Wilton's estate, and the former all the remainder. In 1761 Thos. James Selby purchased the Willis portion from the representatives of Browne Willis, the antiquary and historian of Buckinghamshire (who for some years resided in the house and died there in 1760), and so again united the whole estate. Selby died in 1772 without children. He left his property—failing a right and lawful heir presenting himself and proving his claims within a twelvemonth—to William Lowndes, Esq., of Winslow, on the condition that he took the name of Selby. No heir, fortunately for him, turned up, and so the

estate came to the Selby-Lowndes family, who have been associated with it ever since, though the manor-house is still requisitioned by the Ministry of Works at the time of writing (1949).

To the S. of Whaddon are several pieces of woodland—Thickbare Wood, Thrift Wood, Broadway Wood. These represent to-day the mediaeval Chase of Whaddon, and indeed are popularly called Whaddon Chase, but the Chase covered a much larger area than the existing woods. A chase was usually a detached portion of a royal forest to which the forest laws did not apply, and which had been granted by the sovereign to a subject. Whaddon Chase was thus granted by Henry III, but strangely enough it was asserted by its owners that the king had given it to be held as if it were a royal forest (*Year Book*, Rolls Series, Vol. XXXI, pp. 622-7). Whether this was so or not the records of the trial in which (in 1294) the point was raised do not tell us.

The church has a fine position on the edge of high land with a wide expanse of green and wooded country stretching away to the NW. The building is of considerable interest, with a W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, chancel, and N. chapel. The N. arcade is Norm. (late 12th cent.) and the S. arcade is c. 1200, with capitals ornamented with striking foliage and grotesque animals. The chancel, N. chapel, and W. tower are Dec. The EE. font is noticeable; it has a round bowl supported upon four pillars divided by dog-tooth ornament, and the wooden bracket with carved grotesque head formerly used as a pulley for the font-cover is an interesting survival. The two 16th-cent. windows over the chancel arch are an unusual feature. In the wall of the N. aisle, at the E. end, which was formerly a chapel, is a piscina, and in the NW. corner is the monument to Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton, a plain tomb under a canopy supported by pillars. He died at Whaddon in 1593. In the NE. corner of the same chapel is an important monument. Within a recess above the tomb are the brass effigies of Mr. Serjeant Pigott (1519) in his gown, and of his two wives and their children. Above the brasses is a canopy decorated with four-leaved flowers supported by slender pillars, much worn. By the S. door of the nave is another remarkable brass to Margaret Missenden (1612) and her son—she in full Elizabethan costume; a little below, and to the left, her son in the unpleasant form of a skeleton. In a carved frame on the W. wall is a brass, telling how Amy Emerton in 1613



59 HIGH WYCOMBE: GUILDHALL AND LITTLE MARKET HOUSE



60 THE CHURCH AND DESPENSER OR DASHWOOD MAUSOLEUM AT WEST WYCOMBE

gave a memorial clock to the church. The two oak alms-shovels, dated 1643, are remarkable. There is some mid-14th-cent. glass in the E. window of the S. aisle.

To the S. of the church is a row of tenements, erected for an almshouse by Thomas Coare in 1790.

Wheeler End

[C.6]

Hamlet of West Wycombe in attractive country.

Whitchurch

[B.3]

is a long and extremely attractive village on the main road from Aylesbury to Buckingham. It is situated on the side of the low range which overlooks the W. part of the Vale of Aylesbury and creeps round a bend in the hills. From it the meadows descend steeply into the outstretching pastures. There are a number of very good houses and cottages in the village in a charming variety of materials: brick, stone, timber, and plaster. The house known as the Priory is of 15th-cent. date. The church dominates the village from a height on its E. side. Behind it stretch the famous grazing grounds—Creslow pastures (see Creslow). A lane runs from the main road to the churchyard, and the view up the approach with its old cottages and the fine W. front of the tower, is extremely pleasing. The W. doorway, with clustered shafts with foliated capitals, and window, showing in its outlines Dec. treatment, certainly are the best features of a fine church. The niche and sedilia, Dec. on S. wall of chancel, are noticeable, as are the 17th-cent. font and cover, and the stalls, the initials R. H. on them are probably those of R. Hobbs, last Abbot of Woburn, a benefactor of the church. The painting of St. Margaret in the N. aisle (15th cent.) should be noticed, together with other fragments of painting in the chancel.

Remains of the once-important *Bolebec Castle* (mount and bailey) are visible in the garden of the Grange, and on the other side of the lane bounding it. The mount is an imposing one and is fairly complete, with remains of masonry traceable on the top. The bailey is mutilated by the lane and the garden of the house.

Whiteleaf Cross (Pl. 1)

[C.5]

is cut in the turf of a spur of the Chilterns, close to the hamlet of Whiteleaf—almost certainly a misspelling of Whitecliffe.

This curious object was long popularly considered a relic of the Anglo-Saxon age, as a monument of a battle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Danes, and it has been thought to be a phallic emblem suitably 'bowdlerized' by the addition

of 'arms'. It was once thought to have been an orb, the rounded base having become splayed out into its present triangular shape. There is, however, an alternative suggestion, based partly upon the entire absence of any mention among early authors, that it is more probably an indication of the crossing of the Icknield Way at this spot, not older than the middle of the 17th cent., by the road which here descends the escarpments of the Chilterns, and connects Hampden, Missenden, and Wycombe with Thame and Oxford. It has also been surmised that the cross had some connexion with the defence of the Chilterns against the Royalist army in the Civil War. But this explanation has less to recommend it than that it was a mark for travellers of a place of considerable importance, for we have to remember that it was only here and there that in bygone ages it was possible to pass through the wild and dangerous woodlands of the Chilterns, though it may very well be objected to this explanation that the cross cannot be seen from the N. or E. Possibly, however, surmises of antiquarians are all wrong, and this cross, as well as the small cross at Bledlow, may have been nothing more than a private landmark. The presence of two tumuli on the crest of the ridge immediately above Whiteleaf Cross does, however, suggest an earlier origin (see, on the whole subject, an interesting paper by the late E. J. Payne, *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. VII, and an examination of all the evidence by Sir W. Lindsay Scott in *Antiquity*, Vol. XI, pp. 100-4).

Widmer End, see Marlow

[C.6]

Willen (Pl. 57)

[C.2]

is a small village in the rather uninteresting country which lies between Newport Pagnell and Bletchley. The church has been attributed to Wren, and certainly looks as if it had strayed out of the city, but it has now been proved beyond doubt that the architect was Robert Hooke. His *Diary* is preserved in the Guildhall Library, and several entries therein refer to his work at Willen. Hooke became Wren's assistant after the Great Fire, and was associated with him in many of his most famous building enterprises. As a boy Hooke had lodged in Dr. Busby's house at Westminster, and he was thus a very old friend of his. When the doctor was desirous of building a church here, he sent for Hooke, and there follow several entries in the *Diary*, such as: 'Nov. 22, 1678. All day about Dr. Busby's module of a church.' On December 10th he 'drew a ground plat for Dr. Busby's church'. Other entries concerning the matter follow, and the

final design was settled on March 25th, 1679. The church formerly possessed an interesting little library, housed in a small chamber flanking the W. tower, containing books presented by Dr. Busby in 1695 and others by Mr. Hume of later date (compare Langley Marish). Unfortunately the books were moved to the vicarage, where they were destroyed by fire.

Winchendon, Lower (Pl. 58)

[B.4]

is a picturesque village on the S. margin of the ridge upon which Upper Winchendon stands. The cottages cluster on the steep hill-side and immediately below it. Some are still thatched and most are half-timbered and of a soft brownish-yellow colour. The church, with W. tower, nave, and chancel, is small, though there are some good details, especially in the W. doorway (15th cent.). Inside the communion rails are several brasses—(1) a man in armour in good preservation (c. 1420); (2) John Barton (effigy headless), and his wife, Margaret, 1487; (3) on the N. wall of chancel a woman, apparently in prayer, with folded hands—without inscription.

The interior of this church is characteristic of those which have escaped the attentions of the Victorian 'restorer', and retains its high pews, W. gallery with royal arms, and 'three-decker' Jacobean pulpit.

Note the Manor Farm to W. of church with fine brickwork and clustered chimney-stacks.

The Manor of Lower Winchendon was after the Conquest the property of the Giffards. Walter, about 1162, gave it as part of the endowment of the not distant Notley Abbey. But this grant was never altogether acquiesced in by some who claimed under adverse grants a right to the manor or portions of it. But at the dissolution the Abbots were unquestionably recognized as the possessors of the manor. The first point of interest in the ownership of this land is the grant in 1547 of a considerable part of the property, 'late part of the possessions of Notley Abbey', to that zealous servant of Henry VIII, John, Lord Russell, first Earl of Bedford. However, in 1558, the Earl of Bedford sold his lands in Winchendon to William Goodwyn, a citizen of London, through whose granddaughter, Petronilla, they became, as her marriage portion, the property of Thomas Tyringham, some of whose descendants lie buried in the church. Winchendon Priory, as one manor-house is now called, is to the S. of the village, close to the Thame, which meanders pleasantly through the water-meadows hereabouts. Most of the old house was rebuilt in the 16th cent., and it

was altered at the beginning of the next century. It contains some good panelling. The view S. and SE. across the broken country from Barrack Hill is among the best in this part of Bucks. This is altogether an enchanting place.

Winchendon, Upper

[B.4]

is a parish, the centre of which consists of a few buildings on the high ridge which is almost opposite to Waddesden Manor. The church, approached by private road, and hidden by farm buildings from the passer-by on the main road, stands (550 ft.) on the N. edge of the ridge overlooking an outstretching pastureland to the NW. The massive piers of the nave indicate the early origin of the church, whilst the fine Norm. door in S. wall, EE. E. window, the Dec. windows in the N. aisle, and the Perp. character of the tower are interesting illustrations of the change of architectural style. In the Dec. windows in the N. aisle the attempt at floral imitation is noticeable. Observe also octagonal font, 14th-cent. pulpit, and the Dec. screen. In the chancel is the brass effigy of Sir John Stodeley (1502).

The Manor of Upper Winchendon belonged to the Priory of St. Frideswide at Oxford. It was granted to Wolsey by Henry VIII, and at his fall to John Goodwyn, Esq., of Wooburn, whose descendant, Jane Goodwyn, carried the estate by marriage to Philip, fourth Lord Wharton. His successor, the Marquis of Wharton, was buried in Winchendon Church, but his son, the famous Duke, was indicted for high treason in 1728, and his estates were confiscated. Only the kitchen of the manor-house remains in the house to E. of church.

Wing (Pl. 51)

[C.3]

is a large village, not particularly attractive, and even less so since 'pre-fabs' have been put up on the open green, but possessing the most important pre-Conquest building in the county. It is a large church with W. tower, aisles, and a chancel with polygonal apse raised above the level of the nave, and having beneath it a crypt, or *confessio*, of rough flint, which, as well as the apse, is probably early 10th-cent. work. The three western arches of the nave on both sides are massive Saxon work, while the eastern arches are EE. The exterior walls of the N. aisle are also of pre-Conquest date, giving evidence of a complete Saxon building of elaborate plan and early date. Note the Saxon window in E. wall of nave, with mid-wall baluster shaft. The crypt, with procession path round a central compartment, was formerly entered by two stairways at the ends of the aisles.

These can be seen from the crypt itself. There are several good early Dec. windows and a Perp. E. window. The rood screen and the screen in S. aisle (the top of the rood screen is modern) are interesting examples of early 16th-cent. work. Externally the S. porch is a good specimen of Perp., though the influence of the previous period is visible, not only in the pinnacles, but in the central niche and the singular animals who crouch above the dripstone. The tower is also Perp. Wing is rich in monuments. On the N. side of chancel is a fine and reposeful monument to Sir W. Dormer (d. 1575) and Dorothy (Catesbye), his wife. They lie side by side, Sir William somewhat higher than his wife. Below are their children—among them some babes at rest. Opposite to them is the monument to Sir Robert Dormer and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, two kneeling figures. These, according to Mrs. Esdaile, are Southwark work, probably by Gerard or Nicholas Johnson. The Dormer monument in N. aisle (1552) is an excellent piece of work of pure Italian design. Of the monumental brasses the most interesting is that to Thomas Cotes in S. aisle, porter at Ascott Hall, 1648. He is represented kneeling, with a porter's staff under his feet, a high-crowned hat and a large key lying behind him, beneath is this quaint rhyme:

'Honest old Thomas Cotes, That sometime was
Porter at Ascott Hall, hath now (alas)
Left his Key, Lodg, Fyre, Friends and all to have
A Roome in Heaven. This is that good man's grave.
Reader prepare for thine, For none can tell
But that you Two may meete to-night. Farewell.'

Set up at the apoyntment and charges of his Frend,
GEO. HOUGHTON.

In the same aisle are two more effigies, rather worn, commemorating Harry Blacknall (1460) and his wife, Agnes (1489); and in the N. aisle the brass effigies of a civilian and his wife, without inscription. The font is 15th cent., while in the porch is the base of a late 12th-cent. font of Aylesbury type.

The village stands on the W. edge of one of those long hills, which are formed by the oolitic outcrop, and are so characteristic of the Vale of Aylesbury. It has been largely modernized, but retains its old almshouses (1562). An old local rhyme links Wing with Ivinghoe (q.v.).

At Ascott, a short distance to the E. of Wing, is the house

built by Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. It is on the site of a house once owned by the Dormers, whose monuments in the church have been mentioned.

A short distance from the house were the kennels of the staghounds, established by Baron Meyer de Rothschild in 1847, and which, well known among hunting men as 'the Barons', offered sport and amusement to many generations, not only of purely sporting men, but to others, such as Anthony Trollope, who used to find health and pleasure in gallops over the wide pastures of the Vale of Aylesbury.

Wingrave

[C.4]

is grouped on a hill-top. The church, at the W. edge of the hill, is markedly Perp. in character. The E. window is a fair example of the style. The 12th-cent. wall arcading in the chancel and a small vaulted chamber to the N. of the nave, with wall-paintings, probably of the 13th cent., are of much interest. The subject is a soul being carried to heaven in a cloth by two angels. Note also fine 13th-cent. carved capitals of tower arch; and fragment of 15th- and 16th-cent. screen.

Winslow

[B.3]

is a pleasant little town which, like most of the small towns of Bucks., has remained stationary in population and size. Three streets from the NE. and W. converge on a small market-square. On the right hand entering the town from the E. is seen Winslow Hall (built 1700), a fine example of domestic architecture of the period, with good interior details. The whole of the building accounts have survived and are published in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XI, p. 406. Note also some old thatched cottages on the same road.

The church stands to the N. of the market-place. It is a fine well-proportioned building (Dec.), much restored, with W. tower, nave, two aisles, and chancel. The lofty tower arches (14th cent.) are particularly noticeable, and give a dignity to the whole edifice. Its general character is now Perp., the windows in N. and S. aisles of this style being good, the heads having mullions above cinquefoiled heads. Note within the altar-rails, N., the well-preserved effigies of Thos. Fige, Gent. (1578) and his wife and seven children, and on S. the brass commemorating Dorothy Barnard (1634). The remains of wall-paintings in the N. aisle are important. E. end: the murder of St. Thomas à Becket (Canterbury); centre: a large figure of St. Christopher; W.: part of a Doom, with unusual treatment, all late 15th cent., in oil medium. The interesting little library of early books should be noted. Among them are Bishop Jewel's works.

The remarkable old Baptist chapel, dated 1695, and still retaining its original fittings, is hidden away among buildings behind the Bell Hotel, and should not be missed.

It is said that the Mercian kings had a palace at Winslow, and that it was while in residence here that King Offa planned the foundation of the monastery at St. Albans. At the Domesday Survey the lands here were in the possession of that monastery, and remained so till the Dissolution.

Woburn Sands

[C.2]

is a small modern village, just on the border of Bedfordshire, to which it may be said to belong, as it is close to Woburn and Woburn Abbey.

Wolverton

[C.2]

consists of an old parish and a small market town, and New Wolverton, a distinct ecclesiastical parish, in which are grouped the carriage and wagon workshops of the London Midland Region of the British Railways. This is a dreary town of featureless Victorian red-brick streets.

After the Conquest Manno of Brittany, to whom many manors were given, built a castle here, and was the first of the Barons of Wolverton. The churches are modern, but in that of Holy Trinity, rebuilt in 1815 by the architect Thomas Hakewill, is a marble monument—a life-sized recumbent effigy to Sir Thomas Longueville (d. 1685). This church has a good deal of coloured decoration executed in 1877, which may have interest for ecclesiologists.

Wooburn and Wooburn Green

[C.6]

These places form one long village, and lie in the valley of the Wye, and below them, on the banks of the Thames, is Bourne End, with its boathouses and riverside villas. At Wooburn Green the houses are set around an oval green. The church has been badly over-restored; the late Norm. piers and arches alone tell of its early foundation. The rich rood screen is the work of J. N. Comper (1899). In the floor of chancel are brasses to—(1) Thomas Swayn in cope, 1519; (2) a man in shroud, 1520; (3) Arthur, son of Philip, Lord Wharton, 1641; and in floor of N. aisle to (1) John Godwyn, 1488; (2) Christopher Askowe and wife, 1510. In the N. aisle is a brass of particular interest—that to John Godwyn and Pernell, his wife, 1488, who are charmingly described as 'ffyrst ffounders of the Stepull of Obourne Deyncout'.

A palace of the Bishops of Lincoln once stood here, which afterwards became the property of the Whartons. It contained a chamber known as 'The Little Ease', in which

heretics were confined and herein, according to Foxe, a certain Thomas Chase of Amersham was 'barbarously butchered by strangling'. During the Civil War Philip, Lord Wharton, known as 'The Good', was the owner. He is buried in the church and his memory is still kept green by the Wharton Bible Charity, under which Bibles are distributed to schoolchildren in certain parts of the county. Macaulay refers to him as 'an old Roundhead, who commanded a regiment against Charles I at Edgehill'. He sheltered some of the unpopular Puritan leaders here after the Restoration. He died in 1695. His son, Thomas (1647-1715), was the Whig statesman, and his son was the eccentric Duke:

'A fool with more of wit than half mankind,
Too rash for thought, for action too refined.'

At the close of his extravagant and extraordinary career in 1728 the property was sold. In those days Wooburn House was one of the finest places in England, but it was pulled down in 1750, and a small house now stands on its site—on the SE. side of the valley. SW. of church some old cottages, part of another ancient house, 15th and 16th cents., which once belonged to the d'Eyncourts, and a splendid 15th-cent. barn have been demolished to widen the road, and for other so-called 'improvements'. Opposite the church are some picturesque cottages, one formerly an inn, with quaint wooden 17th-cent. figures, which are said to have come from the church.

Wood End and Lower Wood End

[D.1]

Small hamlets with an old farm, and a house or two in fine country behind Medmenham.

Woolstone, Great

[C.2]

is a village of no importance. The church was rebuilt in 1839. Notice the Norm. font brought from St. Cuthbert's Church, Bedford.

Woolstone, Little

[C.2]

is another small parish close to Great Woolstone, but with a few more inhabitants, though each has less than 100. The church, which probably dates from the 12th cent., is small and has been much altered. It contains, however, a good Norm. font and fragments of old glass in W. window.

Worminghall

[A.4]

This village, with Ickford and Shabbington, form an interesting trio of small villages in the low ground on the SW. border of the county, in the valley through which the

Thame winds. An old local rhyme links these villages together (see Brill). The church is at S. end of the village in the fields. It is a small building with a chancel, nave, and Perp. tower. Remains of the original Norm. structure are the chancel arch and the S. doorway, plain, but with some rather unusual ornament—a roll with clasps; in the S. wall are Dec. windows. There is a brass on the S. wall of chancel, to Philip King and his wife and twelve children (1592), with a quaint rhymed inscription:

‘The aged roote that twelve times fruite did beare
 (Though first and last were blasted in their prime)
 Is withered now and warnes his children deare
 Though yet they springe to know their winters’ time
 So labour’d he and so is gone to rest
 So liv’d, so died, as all (but cursed) blest.
 Blesse, Lord, his fellow roote that lives as yet
 (But as a vine without her proppe decaies)
 And blesse their branches which these two did get
 And send them sap to nourish them alwaies
 Blesse roote and branch that all may grow in Thee,
 And meet at length to eat of Thy Life Tree.’

Two noted divines, Dr. John King, Bishop of London (born 1559), and Dr. Henry King, Bishop of Chichester (born 1591), were born at Worminghall.

Wotton

[B.4]

is a parish without a village. Wotton House, now owned by the Society of Merchant Venturers, stands in the SE. corner of the park, a long avenue connecting it with the Bicester and Aylesbury roads. The house is of red brick and was built in the 1820’s after the former house had been burnt, and further altered in 1920. It is a very good example of its date. In the 14th cent. the manor belonged to the Grenvilles, and the whole atmosphere and lay-out of the place is one of departed ducal grandeur.

The church is a little to the S. of the house in the noble ‘landscape’ park, prettily shaded by trees, and with an old and picturesque farm near it. Architecturally the church has been much modernized as to be of little interest except to Victorian enthusiasts. It contains on S. a 14th-cent. chapel, private property of the Grenvilles—which is separated from the church, and has been rebuilt—in NW. end of which on floor is a black marble monument, with brass effigies, of Edward Grenville (1585), his wife, Alice, and their infant

son. At W. end is a recumbent figure under an elaborate canopy. On E. wall of the aisle is a monument to the last Duke of Buckingham (d. 1889). The heraldic glass by Edginton, c. 1800, is important.

Woughton-on-the-Green (2 m. N. of Fenny Stratford) [C.2] has a small church containing a curious 14th-cent. recess with the effigy of a priest, of rough workmanship.

Wraysbury (properly Wyrardisbury) [D.7] is an uninteresting village, the most southern in the county. It is, furthermore, submerged in a flood of Thames-side bungalows and other houses of poor character that have disinherited some fine parks and mansions.

The church, among meadows to the SW. of the village, is, however, picturesquely placed, with a charming view across the Thames to the hills beyond. It has, unfortunately, been restored out of all knowledge. The oblong EE. pillars dividing the N. aisle, with small columns at the angles, are noticeable for their unusual design. There is an old plain font, formed partly from an inverted, moulded capital, good sedilia and piscina, EE. in character, and in S. aisle some Jacobean carvings. Note also the EE. flowers on capitals of tower arch; in chancel by S. wall the small brass to John Stonor in the dress of an Eton student (1512), and knight in armour, early 16th cent.

The footpath past the church leads to the Ferry at Magna Charta Island. To the S. on the banks of the Thames is Ankerwyke House, rebuilt in 1805, on the site of a Benedictine Priory founded in the reign of Henry II by Sir Gilbert de Montfitchet. Some ruins of this still exist in the private grounds. Near by, also is Place Farm, or King John's Hunting Lodge, relic of a once fine timbered house with porch, great hall, wide fireplaces, etc., of late 15th- or early 16th-cent. date, now much altered and heavily restored. Magna Charta Island, on which the Great Charter was signed in 1215, is nearly due S. of the church (2½ m. from Staines Bridge by river). In the centre is the flat stone, called Charter Stone, on which, according to tradition, King John signed the famous document.

Wycombe, High (Pl. 31, 59) [C.6] has always been an important town, and was a Parliamentary borough until the Reform Act of 1867; in 1626, Waller, the poet, was one of its members. This must have been an enchanting place, lying in its steep-sided, tree-clad valley, before modern so-called 'improvements' ruined its former beauty.

Its present prosperity arises primarily from the manufacture of chairs. Originally only 'Windsor', or kitchen, chairs of beech from the adjoining woods were made, but now chairs of all kinds, as well as other furniture, are manufactured. A large number of hands are employed in the trade.

Up and down the valley from the old part of the town, of which the market-place is the centre, most unattractive small houses and factories extend. The old part, however, is interesting, containing the Town Hall, by Henry Keene (1757), and the Little Market House, ascribed to the Adam brothers (1761).

Wycombe has suffered more than most places from the destruction or mutilation of its old houses and the widening of roads; and the former dignified air of the town is now largely ruined by modern shop-fronts and tasteless conversions of old houses. Particularly regrettable is the conversion of a fine 16th-cent. brick house called the Priory, N. of the church, into shops and offices. The local authority, whose aim seems to be to make a second Ealing Broadway of the town, have wrought far more destruction than German bombs. St. Mary Street and White Hart Street, which contained some of the oldest and most interesting properties in the town, have both been virtually destroyed.

The church, on the N. side of the High Street, and hidden from it by adjoining houses, is an imposing building and the largest church in the county (202 ft. in length). A Norm. church was built at the end of the 11th cent. by Swartling, the Thane. Of this there are no remains except a piece of a capital now placed in a niche in N. aisle, and a piece of rough walling built of native boulder stone, which is in W. wall of N. aisle. The second, a late EE. church, was erected in the 13th cent., and completed in 1275. Of this there remain the striking arch and jambs of the W. window, now one of the tower arches, the pillars and arch dividing N. aisle of nave from the chancel aisle, and the windows of the aisle, which have been restored. But the S. doorway and porch are certainly the most attractive and interesting remains of the EE. church, though the S. front in its original state had three EE. windows—it was restored in 1893 in harmony with alterations made long after it was first built. Early in the 16th cent. the tower was moved from the centre of the building to the W. end. The splendid Perp. nave is the best in the county.

Note the curious juxtaposition of the tower arch and the

former W. window, the Perp. pillars, piers, and windows of chancel. The roofs of nave and aisles and the tower are of this period. The battlement was added in the 18th cent. by Henry Keene. Note the restored Perp. screen in S. aisle, the corbels of the roof, and the great monument to the first Earl of Shelburne, by Scheemakers, in N. chancel aisle. He purchased the Wycombe Abbey estate in 1700; it was purchased by the first Baron Carrington in 1794. The house (now Wycombe Abbey school for girls) is situated in pleasant grounds on the S. side of the town.

On the N. side of the London road once stood St. John's Hospital, founded in the 11th cent. Of this some Norm. piers, capitals, and arches, formerly part of the Hospital Hall, remain in the grounds of the Technical Institute, formerly the Grammar School, founded in 1550, and now moved to the top of Amersham Hill. The remains of the castle mound survive in the garden of a house above the railway station.

A remnant of old times survives in a meadow of 30 acres, called the Rye, in which every inhabitant of the town has a right of common for two cows and a heifer. In Great Penn Mead are the remains of an important Roman villa with tessellated pavements. The new council offices, library, and museum (containing valuable exhibits relating to the chair industry) are situated near the Town Hall in Queen Victoria Street. For the rest, Wycombe to-day is a large and unattractive manufacturing town with a growth of poor villas on all sides, squeezing itself up every pleasant Chiltern valley for miles round.

Wycombe, West (Pl. 42, 60)

[C.5]

is a quaint old-world village on the London and Oxford road, 2 m. from High Wycombe. It consists of one street; many of the cottages have overhanging storeys. Realizing that its modern neighbour was rapidly encroaching upon it and would soon spoil its charm by engulfing it with a tide of ugly villas, the Royal Society of Arts stepped in and purchased the entire village from Sir John Dashwood in 1929. Having reconditioned all the cottages, they handed it over to the National Trust in 1934. The nation owes a great debt to the Royal Society of Arts for having preserved this typical English village from vulgarization and ultimate destruction. The most ancient structure is the church loft (late 15th cent.) on the right-hand side going W. One of the upright wooden beams has a cross cut into it, and another by the wide gateway leading to Church Lane has the iron

handcuffs of the village stocks nailed to it. The church stands on the summit of a hill (600 ft. high) within an ancient entrenchment on the site of a Norm. church (the lower part of the tower is mediaeval). It was rebuilt by Sir Francis Dashwood—afterwards Lord le Despenser—in 1793 (see also under Medmenham) in the classic style, except for the chancel, with stucco and painted decoration, including the Royal Arms over the chancel arch. To the S. of this is a tablet by Nollekens (1801). Note also good carved font stand, a brass to R. East and his wife (1683), and some wood carving in the chancel by Grinling Gibbons and some other curious fittings more secular than religious. The cupboards all round the side-walls are said to have been used as wine-bins! Externally, the huge ball on the top of the tower is most conspicuous. At the E. end is a mausoleum, in which the half-mad peer was buried, and where the heart of his kindred spirit, Paul Whitehead, the dramatist, was placed. (For details of this and those associated with it, see *Hell-Fire Francis*, by Ronald Fuller.)

In the side of the church hill is a sham Gothic entrance, in brick and flint, to the caves, some of which were made to obtain chalk and flint for the rebuilding of the new road between High and West Wycombe by Sir Francis Dashwood in the 18th cent. as a compensation for diverting the old road in the new lay-out of his grounds. They were undoubtedly also used for some of the questionable rites of the Hell-Fire Club. The box and yew-clad slopes of church hill are a good starting-point for walks in this area, where the open down soon turns to wonderful beech-clad slopes. Here the Bradenham valley, Radnage, and Bledlow Ridge are reached, as well as the site of the now vanished mediaeval village of Haveringdown, covered with vast beechwoods.

West Wycombe Park was presented to the National Trust by its owner, Sir John Dashwood, in 1944, the gift including the house and 300 acres of grounds (open May 1st to Sept. 30th: house, Wed. afternoons; grounds, Wed. and Thurs. and first Sat. of the month, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.). The house, commissioned by Sir Francis Dashwood (1708–81), famous dilettante and patron of the arts, includes work by Robert Adam (the double colonnade) and Nicholas Revett (the E. portico) and painted ceilings by Josephi Borghis. The temples in the park are the work of Humphrey Repton, the famous landscape gardener. Here Benjamin Franklin and John Wilkes were frequent guests of Sir Francis Dashwood.

On the high ground S. of the valley between High and West Wycombe is Desborough Castle, an Iron Age camp now grown with beeches. Just below it is the striking modern church (SS. Mary and George), with a dome, designed by Lord Gerald Wellesley, dating from 1938, which serves the industrial district of Sands.

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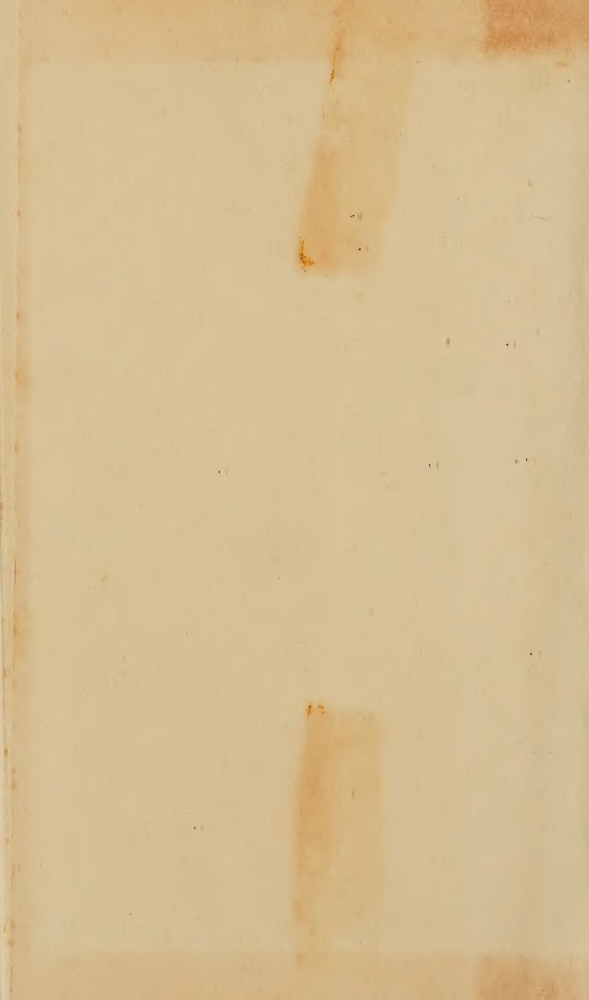
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